

THE
L I F E
OF THE
MARESCHAL DUKE OF RICHELIEU.

FAVOURITE OF LOUIS XIV. & XV.

COMPRIZING

AN INTERESTING PERIOD OF EIGHTY YEARS; INTERSPERSED WITH HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL REMARKS AND ANECDOTES OF THE COURT, DURING THE REIGN OF THOSE MONARCHS: WITH AUTHENTIC LETTERS FROM LOUIS XV. CARDINAL DE FLEURY, MADAME DE POMPADOUR, &c. AND THE DUKE'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE KING'S MINISTERS, DURING HIS IMPORTANT SERVICES AT VIENNA, GENOA, AND MINORCA.

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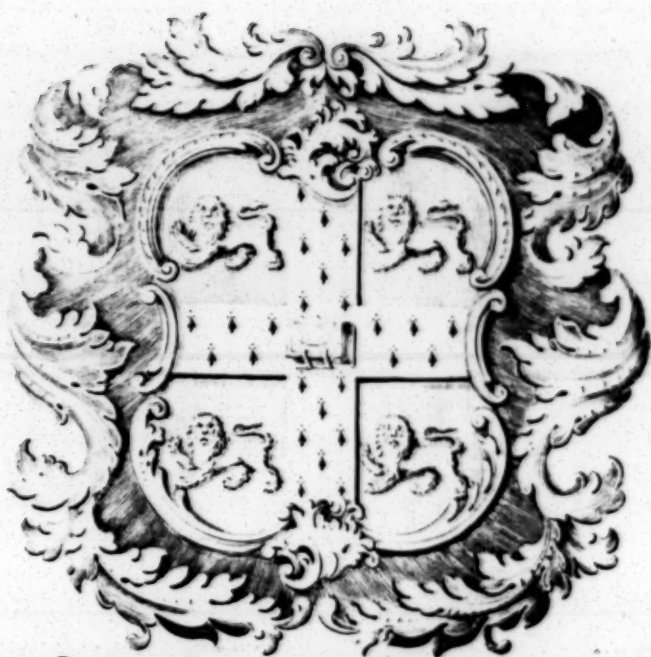
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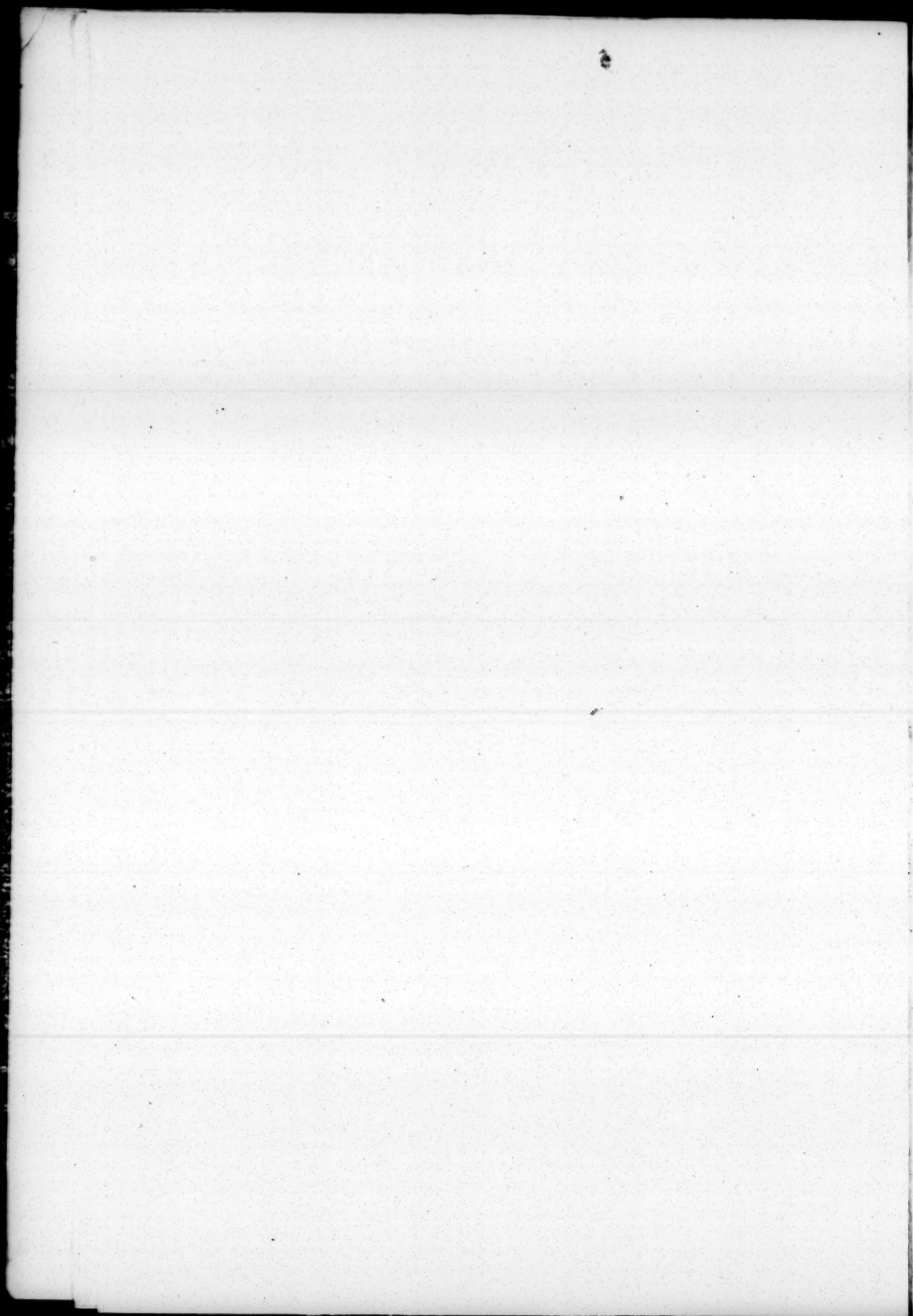
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ADVERTISEMENT TO THE READER.

THE Reader is requested when he comes to the conclusion of the 5th Chapter in this Volume, to refer to the last Chapter contained in it, which ought, but for an error in the Press, to have preceded that denominated the 6th. which consequently should have stood as 7th of this Work, and accordingly, the others, in due succession, should likewise have been altered.





CHAP. I.

*DEATH OF THE DUTCHESS OF ***,—RICHELIEU FALLS IN LOVE WITH A DAUGHTER OF THE PRINCE OF GUISE, AND MARRIES HER. HIS ATTACHMENT NOT OF LONG DURATION,— HE SEES MADAME DE LA MARTELIERE, THE WIFE OF A FARMER GENERAL, WHOM WITH A MADemoiselle JULIE, AN ORIGINAL CHARACTER, ATTRACT HIS ATTENTION.*

THE DUKE arrived at Court met with the most flattering reception, from the King and his Ministers. The Monarch had been prejudiced in his favor by the Cardinal, and from this moment manifested for him a particular kindness. Those friends

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friends who had regretted his absence, were overjoyed at his return. The Dutches of ***, he found greatly altered, an obstruction of the spleen had impaired her health, and eight months after, this best of friends paid the debt to nature. Her confidential servant was entrusted with her Picture, which, with a letter she had written to the Duke some days before her death, he had the affliction of receiving.

His respect to decorum, caused a renewal of his attentions to Mademoiselle de Charolois, and gratitude to Madame de Duras, and Madame de Gontaut, secured them from his neglect, but Madame de Tencin, sister of the Cardinal of that name, became the immediate object of his devotion. This Lady, early a devotee, had apostatized, and was celebrated, as one versed in Politics, as well as literature. This character in a woman pleased the Duke, and conceiving the bent of her former talent would be serviceable to his views, he attached himself to her, and succeeded in meeting an equal return, they had a Cypher, which in their correspondence they used, to impart to each other every intrigue and matter that passed at Court.

IN 1731, the Academy of Sciences embraced the earliest opportunity of receiving him as an honorary. Scarcely was this new dignity conferred, than his health visibly decayed, and foretold a speedy end to his days—a regimen of milk was ordered, but without apparent effect. He hastened into Holland to consult Boerhaave, and took with him a Monsieur Hunaud, of the faculty. The former able practitioner recommended the waters of Spà, to facilitate the digestion of the milk diet, the Duke accordingly repaired there, and in six weeks, his constitution was restored to it's vigour.

RETURNED to Court, the same dissipation prevailed, till Hymen a second time exerted her sway. Frequent opportunity, introduced him into the presence of Mademoiselle de Guise, her father's Hotel joining the Duke's. This young Lady, of an handsome figure, endowed with mental accomplishments, soon gained the Duke's affections; and joined, to his ambition being excited, in forming an alliance with a family, inferior only to the throne, whose ancestors had been so illustrious, he proposed, and met with the honor of being accepted.

IN point of fortune, it was very inadequate to the dignity of her birth, the brother being sole heir, to the estate of the family, as entailed possessions, the daughters

daughters had only their name and qualifications to recommend them. Richelieu shewed an unceasing attachment for six months. That time elapsed, his religious vows were forgotten in the company of the beautiful Madame de la Martélière, the wife of a Farmer General.

NEVERTHELESS, preserving a degree of respect for his wife, and fraught with a great esteem for the amiability of her disposition, he conducted himself with that discretion so as to create no domestic uneasiness. Madame de Richelieu, joined, to a sincere passion for the Duke, a true dignity of mind, and maintaining that uniformity, she imposed on him a certain restraint, which uniting with his sentiments, caused her never from appearance, to have any doubts of his constancy.

To insure conjugal happiness where ignorance of the fact exists, suspicions should not be entertained; and Madame de Richelieu's good sense never gave way to any. In this manner his days glided pleasantly along, in attention to his wife, and attachment to his new Mistress. This Lady, of a singular beauty, had all Paris at her feet. Her indifference was proclaimed, till the Duke disposed himself for conquest, and in his views was assisted by the good tem-

per

per of the husband, who flattered with the honor of the acquaintance of a man of Richelieu's rank, and secure of his wife's fidelity, betrayed, on every occasion, an eager desire of communicating secrets of family, to his new friend.

THE financier also was deceived, from the idea that obtained of the Duke's reform, and his gallantry centering only in a real attachment to his wife ; who being known in the world, to be a woman of great abilities, and a commanding influence, was generally supposed, to have worked this miracle in her husband. His progress however, in his Mistress' esteem, soon appeared, and was hastened by the communicative La Martéliere. A family difference had arisen in the morning, Madame was indisposed and excused herself from dinner. The husband, went to the play, and intreating his friend's mediation, imparted the particulars, which had driven him from the scene of his happiness. Richelieu sympathizing, assures him to do his endeavor, declines accompanying him to his own villa, where the Financier was to sup in a select party, and intent on satisfying his friend's wishes, repairs for the purpose of adjusting the husband and wife's dissention. He announces himself as deput-

ed, and, as such, is after some hesitation admitted ; an animated discussion occurs ; the warmth of the Lady is apparent, every blame is readily bestowed on the husband, and the Lady indulges herself, in satisfaction, for the offence of La Martélie's incorrectness of behaviour.

INVOLVED in the common destiny, the poor La Marteliere returned home, impatient to apologize and to conciliate.—His wife, fatigued with the uncommon scene of the preceding day, which she had so unexpectedly experienced, excused herself from seeing him, and disdainfully rejected his proffers. The Duke arrives—pressing instances ensue, and to his kindness, the husband is indebted for re-admission into her presence, and an apparent reconciliation. In the ardor of professing his gratitude, he testifies to the Duke, his hope, this little interruption will be succeeded in a few months, by a greater blessing, which his friend confirms the probability of, by an assurance of it's being two to one in favor of his surmise. Wishing still, for further gratification in his pursuits, he next turned his attention to the Financier's mistress, whom he had often declined visiting; however importuned, by the mistaken confidence of his friend, to

accompany

accompany him, to those select parties. This young woman was pretty, and had been brought up in a convent, under the care of an aunt, her Mentor, to whose will, she was perfectly obedient. Richelieu experienced, saw the mode of his approaches, and without noticing the Niece, was unremittingly complaisant to the aunt. The Financier, in sacrifices to Bacchus, was enraptured with describing his happy situation ; and in the enthusiasm of his joy, predicting a similar happiness, as he had flattered himself with the future enjoyment of, from Madame de la Martélière, the Duke equally, confirmed him, in an hope of it's realization.

RICHELIEU, earnest in accepting his friend's invitations, had gained greatly, without knowing it, the good will of the aunt. This woman, of a middle age, employed every art to captivate him ; and what, he had attributed to natural politeness alone, he found in the result, to be, the effect of an ardent desire to please. Julia, the name of the niece, occupied solely his attention. He discerned in her a fund of education and principle, very inimical to his views ; and though nature indicated the preference, yet she had persuaded herself, that no criminality existed in confining herself to a connection with one person ; and that error alone laid in a variety

riety of attachments. The aunt who had brought her up in the intention of the sacrifice she had made, had firmly impressed in her pupil, the morality of this doctrine.

FIXED in this sentiment, her innocence felt no hesitation, in avowing to the Duke, the preference she gave him; and sincerely lamented he had not been known to her, before she had devoted herself to the Financier. But this step once taken, her promise of fidelity was pledged; and sense of religion guarded her against yielding to any weakness, which inclination might direct.

RICHELIEU, as much piqued with the difficulty he met, as astonished, in falling in, with a young woman, exhibiting so romantic a turn of mind, resolved to cease visiting her. His passion, however, predominating, he redoubled his attention which the opportunity of a visit of Madame de Richelieu to Arcueil, after laying in of a son, afforded him. In one of these meetings, the Aunt's patience exhausted, she anticipated the Duke's declaration, that so long had been hoped for, by a free confession of her own. The Duke astounded, and not much relishing the proposition, candidly told her that not sensible of the honor intended him, her wishes had escaped his
attention

attention, from it's being totally engrossed in the behalf of the niece. He assured her however, she need not despair, but that her expectation must be founded, conditionally with his success, in conquering the obstinacy, and removing the silly prejudice, she had unaccountably tutored and cherished in so heavenly a form.

THE aunt frightened with the task imposed, and fully aware of the firmness of her niece's scruples, trusted by an affected sensibility to divert Richelieu from such thoughts. He persisted in the preliminary he had established, and stood indebted to stratagem alone, for bringing the treaty with the parties to a successful conclusion.

THE error committed, the preference owned maintained an ascendancy, yet, in this amiable girl, was fraught with a certain occasional regret, and the aunt was obliged to use every influence, and the Duke to employ every persuasion, to prevent her discarding the financier. The moment of his happy predictions was near being verified, and he felicitated himself with the idea, he had before expressed to his friend, that in the course of time, every thing came to a good end.

CHAP. II.

THE SIEGE OF PHILIPSBURG,—THE DUKE'S DUEL WITH THE PRINCE DE LIXEN, A NEAR RELATION OF HIS WIFE,—THE LATTER IS KILLED—THE DUKE IS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF BRIGADIER OF THE KING'S ARMIES—HE RETURNS TO PARIS—MADAME DE LA MARTELLIERE AND JULIA ARE DELIVERED—THE LATTER DIES IN CHILD BED.

NOTWITHSTANDING the desire the Cardinal de Fleury manifested to preserve the Kingdom in peace, the death of Frederic Augustus, King of Poland, revived the hope of Stanislaus. Lewis XV. thought, it became him to support the pretensions of his father in law to the reinstatement of a throne, that had been wrested from him; and however the declaration of the Emperor and Russia in favor of the son
of

of the deceased Monarch, he proclaimed, he should suffer no other, than the dethroned Prince, to be nominated, on this occasion, to the succession. Whilst the report industriously was circulated, that a fleet sailing from Brest, for the Baltic, had Stanislaus on board, that active Monarch disguised, and attended by only one man, arrives in Poland. Immediately all suffrages in his favor unite, with the exception of a single magnat, who retires with some troops, his vassals from the place of election. Stanislaus is entreated to put himself at the head of those that have sworn allegiance, and to punish the person, departing from the act of the unanimity. But averse to bloodshed, and too mild for the Monarch, who had a throne to contend for, he neglects the advice given, allows a space of time for the rebel to entrench himself, and a still further one, for the arrival of the Russian Troops to his support. An assembly is convened at Prague, and the Elector of Saxony, under the name of Augustus II. is proclaimed King.

STANISLAUS fled from Dantzic, with a part of the Polish Nobility, and the empty title of a King. In that place he is besieged by General Lascy, commanding a body of russians, and at the instant, a corps of French, arriving to support him, the

Count

Count de Munich, who had assumed the direction of the Russian army, obstructs effectually their penetrating into the town.

THE Cardinal de Fleury, whom we have already represented, as a man destitute of resources, and too timid in action for the minister of a great nation, thinks, at this crisis, it is dangerous to alarm England by apparent vigorous preparations for war. Instead therefore of giving that efficient support he ought to have done, he is satisfied in equipping an insignificant squadron, with fifteen hundred troops on board. Stanislaus, on whose head, a reward was published, is obliged to quit the place, in a dark night, disguised; and after incurring millions of perils, he considers himself too happy in having reached the dominion of Prussia; although in this flight, he forfeited and resigned all hope of a crown, to which the voice of the people had twice nominated him.

LEWIS XV. intent on avenging the insult offered to his father in law, judged the distance was too great, for the possibility of making any impression on the Russians; and decided therefore, that the Emperor, who had leagued with the the Czarina, in the preferment of Augustus, should

feel

feel the weight of his resentment, by carrying the war into his kingdom. The Marechal de Berwick, heading a French force, penetrates into the empire, seizes the fortification of Kehl, and layeth siege to Philipsburg. The Count de Saxe in this army, officiated as a Marechal de Camp (Quarter-Master General.) The Duke of Richelieu, commanding the regiment of his name, merited by distinguished acts of bravery, the General's applause ; and obtained permission to visit the Prince Eugene, who commanded the Emperor's army.—The Prince totally forgetful of that susceptibility of jealousy, which he had shewn to Richelieu, in respect to the Countess of Badiani, received him with singular affection ; and the Duke, as a true French Knight, on his return to camp, sent the Prince, a present of one hundred bottles of Champaign, which with equal courtesy, were exchanged for twenty bottles of Hungarian Tokay.

THE siege was in great forwardness, and notwithstanding the fatigue and dangers attending it, joy and pleasure reigned in the camp. Five Princes of France alternately entertained at supper, the principal officers of the army. The Prince de Lixen,

a near relation of the Dutchess of Richelieu, and long in habit of intimacy with the Duke, made one of all these parties. They had in the time of the Regency, with Mons. de Firmaçon, and others equally dissipated, acted a part in concert, that nearly was proving fatal, to a Canon of L'Auxerrois, who imprudently had ventured to satirize the licentiousness of their conduct in pointed and applicable verse. Firmaçon, enrobed as a commissary, the Prince of Conti, as an exempt, the Prince de Lixen, as a confessor, with Richelieu, and others of their party as guards, force in the dead of night, in the King's name, the apartments of the poor curate; whose slumber being profound they carry him to Lé'toile, on the way to Neuilly; there he is admonished to prepare himself for death, Lixen pronounces his absolution, half dead with fright, in his night apparel he receives it, and with resignation, allows the handkerchief, to be drawn over his eyes; they tie him to a tree, and in this situation two Pistols well loaded are fired close to his ears. The priest thought all was over, and the actors disappeared. He passes, thus bound, the remainder of the night; and in the morning, by the pity of some passengers, is conveyed again to his dwelling, in the dreadful

agony

agony of recollection, of what had happened.

IN these parties of festivity and merriment, the Prince de Lixen, was rather addicted to indulge in ebriety, and in those moments, was unfortunately not the most pleasant companion. He supped constantly where Richelieu did, and this night, it had been the turn of the Prince de Conti, to entertain. In the conviviality that reigned, this adventure came to their recollection, and was with much humor descanted upon. The topic of conversation then turned to their several Mistresses; and the Prince de Lixen, suspected of a particular intrigue, had long to sustain the joke of the company. Richelieu unhappily, pointedly ridiculed him, till it excited a bitter retort from the Prince. He had observed, that the Duke, just returned, as the supper was serving, from the command of a working Party in the trenches, perspired greatly, and that his habit even was soiled with the warmth of the fatigue he had undergone; too indulgent in his sarcastic turn, he expressed his surprize, by a remark, that he ought to have got rid of his dirt, by the purification which his blood had undergone in the honor of the alliance into his family. Richelieu, though boiling with rage,

had

had yet sense enough to contain himself, and inwardly vowed, he would be purified, but it should be in the shedding of the Prince's own blood. The supper over, they rise to retire. The Duke joins the Prince and whispers to his ear that an instantaneous meeting at the foot of the trenches is expected; they repair to the place of appointment, fight, and the Prince by his death expiated too severely the consequence of an offensive expression.

MESSIEURS de Duras and De la Valière, who alone had perceived enough to excite suspicion, after what had passed in their hearing, hastened to separate them, but it was too late, the Prince was expiring. His brother, the Prince de Pons, loudly exclaimed he would have vengeance, though after the first emotions of his violence, he was satisfied in carrying away the victim, and celebrating his funeral obsequies. The Princess of Lixen was inconsolable, and vowed eternal antipathy to the murderer of her husband. Scarcely however had the time requisite for mourning elapsed, than she married the Count de Mirepoix, on whom it was well known, her attachment was fixed, yet, if the Duke's name was mentioned, she felt wonderful agitation; and displayed the farce of retiring from a ball at Mona-

co, even two years since the misfortune, on seeing a man in Richelieu's livery appear. The Duke disgusted to see affectation of sorrow pushed to such an excess, sarcastically observed, she "ought to have been sensible of an obligation, from the opportunity it created of wedding the person on whom she doated; unless, indeed, marriage had cured her previous inclination!" This was too much, and a future change of conduct to the Duke, obliterated the poignancy of the satire. History informs us of the event of the siege, the Marechal de Berwick terminated his military career by a cannon ball, leaving to the Marquis D'Asfeld and the Duke of Noailles, the two Generals next in command, the honor of availing themselves of his able dispositions. The town capitulated on the 18th of July; and the remainder of that Campaign offering nothing of importance, Richelieu yielded to the pressing entreaties of his wife, whom he found concerned for the loss of a relation, however approving of the revenge taken for the gross insult.

HAVING dedicated a certain time to friendship and esteem, he flew where love awaited him. Madame de la Marteliere terrified with the dangers of her approaching situation, considered his unex-

pected

pected arrival, as a second blessing she derived; and the husband valuing himself, on the speedy prospect of his happiness, received him with the utmost joy, in what regarded his domestic satisfaction. But in respect to Julia, it was otherwise. Taking the Duke aside, he communicated his apprehensions of her state of health, which had been visibly on the decline, since Richelieu quitted her society, and remarked, that her thoughts appeared totally engrossed in religious contemplation, to which she was determined to sacrifice by retiring, in a convent, the rest of her days.

RICHELIEU was anxious to calm the perturbed mind of the interesting Julia. He saw with deep concern, the account, which he had received of the situation of this lovely object, had not been exaggerated; oppressed with melancholy, her languor had brought on a consumption, the progress of which was so rapid, that, it was judged her approaching delivery must exhaust what remained. Nature however assisted, and she was happily delivered of a Son, who survived a Mother, a martyr to sensibility. The Duke received her last farewell, expressed in a manner dignified and affecting, and according with the principle, that had taken

such

such root in this young and amiable mind, as to leave no shadow of consolation, from the moment of deviation.

THE Duke was much hurt by this incident, and consecrated days of bitter anguish to her memory. Madame de la Marteliere about this period, brought into the world a son, an event, that rendered the husband happy, and pleased Richelieu. This gentleman, in process of time, became the Duke's Aid de Camp, when he commanded the army in Hanover, and he readily took on himself the charge of his advancement, preserving a tender regard for the mother, marked by several instances of friendship, after he had ceased to visit her as the object of his attachment.

CHAP. III.

VOLTAIRE LENDS HIM FORTY THOUSAND LIVRES—HE IS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF MARESCHAL DE CAMP. DUEL WITH MONSIEUR DE PENTEREDER, WHOM HE KILLED. DANGEROUS WOUND RECEIVED IN THIS CONFLICT. NOMINATED COMMANDANT IN LANGUEDOC. DEATH OF THE DUTCHESS OF RICHELIEU.

HOWEVER intent on pleasure Richelieu often sacrificed to glory. The spring remanded his services with the army, where, on every occasion, he displayed signal feats of bravery, tempered with great skill and prudence; in danger his mind was eminently collected, and he appeared as undismayed in a field of battle, as at ease with himself in a brilliant Court.

PROFUSE

PROFUSE to excess, he was obliged frequently to have recourse to loans. Voltaire, with whom he had formed an intimacy, meeting him at the house of the celebrated Madame du Châtelet, aware of his necessities, went one day and in friendship offered forty thousand livres to be sunk into an annuity; observing, it was his wish, a friend should have the benefit of the surplus of a capital, which from the decayed state of his health, he could not receive the interests of, beyond two or three years; the Duke accepted, and bound himself by an engagement, which regularly was discharged for forty-five years, the Poet and Historian living to the age of 84, and the Duke attaining the longevity of 92; although on acceding to the terms, he had expressed his conviction, that his heirs, (if his friend, as he supposed, outlived him,) would have to make this payment. A greater instance of incertitude in human nature cannot well be illustrated.

MONSIEUR de Penterieder, a noble of Germany, had quitted Vienna for the pleasure of passing a few years in France. His fortune very considerable, added to high birth and elegance of education, enabled him in his travels to pursue every enjoyment, and led him into an introduction

of the first societies. Sojourning sometime at Paris, he had heard spoken of Madame de la Martéliere, at the Prince de Conti's, in that vein of admiration, as excited his desire of being presented to her. To have that honor, and to be fascinated were instantaneous. Presents, festivals, and every demonstration of gallantry succeeded ; but however lavish, he discerned his attentions were not susceptible of impression, and naturally ascribing such failure to the possession of a more happy rival, he sought to discover on whom the preference was bestowed. Fame, and his own observation had already pointed out Mons. de Richelieu, and investigation confirmed the opinion. Neither the Duke, or himself, were amicably inclined.—Each other's designs had been traversed by chance during the former's residence at Vienna, and he considered his importunity, with the Financier's wife, as officious and presumptuous.—The lady and Richelieu of one accord, and herself incommoded with the German's assiduities, it was decided between them, that his admission should be refused ;—Mons. de P. submits with temper to the first rebuffs of this nature, but his patience, combined with hope, being at length exhausted, and this disappointment still continuing, he resolves on vengeance,

geance, and that his rival shall experience it's effects. For this purpose after being denied at the Financier's door, and imputing the tyranny of the order to him, he quits his carriage, and takes post opposite, to observe in a concealed manner what passeth; Richelieu's carriage soon appears and the doors are thrown open, he awaits, determined to have his revenge the moment of the other's coming out, but his stay within is so prolonged, that lassitude, fatigue, and vexation, cause him to retire, and it is deferred only to an early opportunity. The next day it was afforded. Their carriages meet on the Pont Royal. A signal is made, the Duke's Coachman is ordered to stop;—A short and animated explanation occurs, the result of which dictates their respective Coachmen to sit them down, behind the Hôtel of Invalids, where inspired with equal fury, the combat is soon decisive. Penterieder falls, and expires pronouncing La Matélie's name; and Richelieu quits the spot, wounded desperately.

THIS wound, the consequences of which he dreaded, occasioned his addicting himself more to the study of Medicine, in which science he had caught the first impression from that marvellous

man,

man, Damis. It is certain this man gave him the fullest instruction of the virtue of several of the most useful drugs, and taught him their preparation. The act of rendering gold potable, was amongst them, and to the possession of this important secret is ascribed the Duke's extraordinary longevity. Many others held in great esteem were equally known to him, and in all situations, happily acquainted with his habit, he administered to himself, granted his advice to others and scarcely ever found a convalescent, without enquiring into his disorder, and prescribing accordingly.

BECOME Marechal de Camp one year prior to the peace of 1739, he obtained in the said year the Government of Languedoc. His pleasures never diverting him from the pursuit of his interests, he went often to Versailles, and Rambouillet, where the King was much pleased with his attendance. Admitted into his intimacy, he sought the favor of his confidence, persuaded the King must soon relinquish his attention to the Queen, for some other object. He considered him as a great boy, whom the manners of the world soon would reform, and he wished to be the confident of this operation, which he

concluded

concluded was not distant. If inclination had not prompted, the Queen's mode of life, was such as to insure it. Bigotted and sedate, her turn was more adopted to a convent, than to figure in the sphere of a Queen, surrounded by Priests, all ambitious to govern her, she thought her salvation would be promoted, by abstaining as much as possible from those pleasures created by Hymen. Days of mortification were fixed. On such the King had no access, whence it was easy to discern, that youthful desire being opposed, would break out in indulgence with those, where it might be enjoyed with perfect freedom.

THE moment approached of this expected event. The courtiers, hoping that, where the choice fell, it might be an improvement of their interest; and the Cardinal himself, not disliking to contemplate the declining influence, however small, the Queen had attained. Her power was not an object of great jealousy, yet, such as it was, the prelate aspiring to rule solely, felt no repugnance to set it aside. His empire hitherto had been attended with success, the Finances were in good order, and the King gave the law to his enemies.—What glory he enjoyed, had been from no self act. Ad-

dicted

dicted to the amusements of the chase, which he pursued with an ardor blameable in a Monarch, who had other cares, he intrusted the reins of administration entirely to the prudence of the Cardinal. This prelate having aspired this aversion in his pupil, resolved to maintain his ascendancy to the hour of his death, and firm in his political conduct, his power in the state ceased only with his death.

HIS Majesty's subjects inclined to credulity in behalf of the Sovereign governing them, and reposing that belief, often, without auricular or ocular demonstration, conceived that the courtiers had corrupted their virtuous Monarch. However fully capable of practising their vicious tendency on others, the sequel of the king's life proves beyond a doubt, that the seed of flagrant depravity was in him perfectly original.

WE see him at the age of seventeen, assume an extraordinary dissimulation; in so young a man, whose nature, it might have been supposed, would have revolted, and treated, as indignant of his character, such a suggestion, had it been presumed. The day he disgraces and exiles Monsieur Le Duc, unprepared for this transaction, he is lavish in his

praise,

praise, prodigal in personal attention, 'till the instant his Sovereign will is pronounced. In this propensity he was uniform throughout his reign, in what regarded the casual charge of his Ministers, 'till it was so fully established, that his courtiers proclaimed, as well as the person materially interested in his rapid downfall, the moment peculiar courtesy was apparent. With respect to women, nature had bestowed on him every disposition; and however Priesthood may have been loud in declaiming his early virtues; and the hope, they promised, of being immaculate, had it not been for the sinister views of base and designing Courtiers; it is easy to judge, from his conduct, as he advanced in years, that no restraint would have withheld, what the law of nature, unchecked by principle, either moral or religious, imposed.

THE King was united in marriage 'ere the force of his habit assumed an imperious sway; his Queen, was the first of the sex, to whom he had sacrificed; and though older than himself, yet the pleasures of matrimony excited a pleasing sensation, untainted from the comparison which other enjoyment might have led him to decide upon. The numerous progeny she brought him, also diverted him from inconstancy;

constancy; and certainly a possibility of opinion exists, that had it not been for an uncommon austerity, and ill-timed devotion, the King might have remained faithful. In this, with the other arguments we have adduced, is to be opposed that prevalent turn for variety, which nature institutes in mankind. In a mind perfectly sensible of superiority of attraction, so unbounded in manifesting his will, were it inclined, it surely must be presumed, the inferiority in his Queen, would soon be apparent, and bid adieu to all restriction.

THE Queen, under the dominion of her confessor, little versed in the real interests of his penitent, accelerated of herself a cessation in her husband's attachment. Himself invigorated by the exercise of hunting and riding, resorted oftener than usual to her apartments. Instead of meeting with satisfaction those tender and pleasing marks of regard, pretexts to evade them were had recourse to; and on such days, where the impatience was manifest, the disappointed Monarch was reduced to return to his apartments ungratified. At first gentle murmurs expressed the displeasure; but the practice becoming too constant, a disgust and indignation was manifested. To an individual, this would have been unpleasant, and how much more to a King? the consequence

quence was, that he very soon abandoned the Queen to her fasts and prayers, for a mistress, in whom such scruples were estranged.

THE King had already avowed his resolution of deserting his Consort's bed;—but actuated one night by the force of passion, he suffered his oaths to be forgotten, and flew to her apartment. Again it was an unlucky moment to him:—admittance is refused on the plea of indisposition, and the King, sacredly pledging himself never to return, directs Le Bel, his Valet de Chambre, to supply the charm of the Queen's obstinacy, by any of the sex, on whom he will bestow the preference. Le Bel, exceedingly discomposed, and feeling the delicacy of his situation, is motionless both in words and action. Repetition of the order is enforced, and in a manner fully intent on having it obeyed. The affrighted servant runs to the Cardinal, whom he found, had retired to rest. He awakes him on the pretext of an order from the King, and imparts the order he has received, entreating he may be honored with his guidance for his conduct in such a difficulty. His Eminence, feigning equal embarrassment, directs his immediate return to the Monarch and to follow those

dictates prudence might suggest. Uncertain to what effect this advice tended, Le Bel assures the Monarch of his inability to supply the requisition.

THE monarch resolved no impediment should arrest his wish, accused his servant of imbecility and inexpertness; go, said he, into the galleries, and at the first door you observe a light, tell the woman you meet with, I am desirous of speaking to her. Le Bel, fearful a second refusal might involve the fate of his situation, hastened to execute his Master's orders.—In the gallery, a chambermaid, handsome and of the fairest complexion, is easily persuaded, she belonged to the Princess de Rohan, and an advantageous subsequent marriage sealed the propriety of her ready assent.

THIS anecdote, related by Le Bel himself, confutes every other assertion on this subject, that has been handed to posterity. In the morning, he repaired to the Cardinal, and entered into a full detail of the success of his occupation, the preceding evening. His Eminence said, it was wise not to counteract, what Providence ordained, and that he should submit to her decrees. In this resolution, he questioned Le Bel, whether any Lady of the Court had particularly attracted the Monarch's regard;

Madame

Madame de Mailly is mentioned, and neither being very beautiful, or disposed in any degree to intrigue, his Eminence saw in her less danger of ascendancy, and fixed with Le Bel, that, henceforward he was by his management to cause that Lady to supplant the fair chamber maid.

THE opportunity soon occurred. On a reiteration of the King's commands, to this purport, Le Bel told the Monarch, with humble deference, that such a connection was not suitable; and that he should procure him one more appropriate to his rank, and the honor intended to be conferred. He announces to Madame de Mailly, that his Majesty has some thing of importance to communicate to her ear. The lady, prepares to adjust herself, but Le Bel sensible of his Master's impatience, assures her a negligé is much more adapted to the occasion, and ventures to declare, his Majesty had expressed a wish she would hasten to his apartments in whatever deshabille she was. Madame de Mailly, not surmising what could be the cause of so sudden an intimation, accompanies Le Bel; and excuses her undress on the wish of promptly obeying the Monarch's summons. His politeness and gratitude are expressive; and Madame de Mailly finds herself initiated, without the leisure of previous reflection.

THIS

THIS is truly the origin of this connection. In both these, we have displayed, that without the influence of pernicious counsels, the Monarch naturally was incited to follow the bent of his desires, and to give them their fullest scope. To say, he was not, in some instance, the victim of bad advice, would be preposterous, for unfortunately the weakness of his judgement and an indolent turn too often afforded success in the object aimed. But we contend that his innate disposition betrayed a callousness of mind, which, totally devoid of sentiment, could not have arisen from the perversion of example. Can a stronger instance of apathy be manifested than towards the remains of Madame de Pompadour?—This Lady, whom he had lived with for years, professed to admire and love, he saw her die without any emotion of grief; and surveying from his apartments the funeral obsequies, observed with cold indifference, he thought them too magnificent, adding, pulling out his watch with equal unconcern, that in his idea, the procession would reach Paris by ten exactly.

WHEN this same Le Bel, his confident, the soul of his pleasures, died at Compiègne, from taking too much to heart a violent rebuke from his
 master,

master, was it owing to evil counsel, that he testified no emotion of sorrow ? coolly asking, on the account of his death being brought to him, where it was intended to have him buried ?

AGAIN, is it possible that such sang froid could be inculcated, in him, as that, which appeared on the death of the Marquis de Chauvelin. This Nobleman, living in a constant habit of intimacy with his Sovereign was of his daily parties. They had supped together at Madame du Barré's. Quitting the table, cards were proposed, and as the several parties were arranging, the Marquis in an apoplectic fit, falls and expires at the feet of the King. An alarm and general concern seizes the company, and eager in the hope of assistance being effectual, they press forward to afford it; his Majesty by a remark worthy of his nature, convinces them, it is in vain. "Don't
 " you see, says he, the hog of a fellow is dead, in
 " consequence of having overeat himself ; it is a
 " long while, I predicted to him, what would
 " happen !"

MANY others of a similar tendency may be adduced to establish our position, that nature had not endowed his mind, with any of her amiable virtues.

THE Duke of Richelieu, in being nominated to the Government of Languedoc, had attained the summit of his wishes : He had long solicited this favor, which, flattering his inclination to govern, he felt much indebted to the Cardinal's friendship for inducing the King to appoint him to a situation wherein he meant to erect himself as a petty Sovereign.—His fortune was much deranged, and, in concert with Madame de Richelieu, they fixed a certain reform in their household, and to keep only one house, for their residence, which they resolved should be for three years at Montpellier. The hôtel in Paris was hired for that time by the Count de Castro Piagno, Ambassador from Naples ; who, visiting the apartments, found himself overpowered by the smell of musk, and ordered, to divert the nauseous smell, sheep to be let loose in them. The Duke had a violent passion for that perfume ; and in the lining of his cloathes, having always some distributed, wherever he went he carried so strong an odour, that often those unaccustomed to such strong scent, were compelled to retire.

IN consequence of this partiality, a comical adventure occurred to the Cardinal de Rohan. Richelieu had, in the evening the latter paid a visit

to

to the Dutcheſs de Tallard, been there a little time before his Eminence. Chance had ſeated them on the ſame elbow chair. The Cardinal went from thence to the Queen's, and his habit was ſo impregnated, that her Maſteſty obſerved it was unbecoming the dignity of a prelate to addiſt himſelf to thoſe perfumes, ſuitable alone to the licentious character of a Duke of Richelieu. The prelate, conſcious he had never uſed any of ſuch force, approached her Maſteſty, beſeeching ſhe would convince herſelf of her miſtake; but the nearer he came, the more obnoxious it was, and to ſuch a degree, as to incommode the Queen, and oblige her to retire, declaring, ſhe felt ſcandalized to ſee a dignitary of the church practice ſuch effeminacy. The Cardinal, ſtupified, aſcribed ſuch remark, to a pretext for diſgracing him, and could not divine the cauſe, whence ſuch a reſolution proceeded. Others, however having expreſſed that night a ſimilar ſurpriſe, and himſelf, in undreſſing, ſatiſfied it was juſt, ſought to diſcover the ſource of this uncommon incident. In a few days it was traced, and he ran to the Queen, complaining of Monſieur de Richelieu, having ſubjected him to this unpleaſant event. Her Maſteſty, by an expreſſive ſhrug of her ſhoulders, denoted her contempt

for

for the Duke, whose morals and conduct, so opposite to the propriety of sentiment, by which she was governed, made him an object of her aversion. Yet, this princess, otherwise so austere and correct, delighted in theatrical exhibitions, the language of which had not the most chaste tendency; and so well was this passion known that recently after her death, when the comedians indulged in any loose pieces, it was prevalent in the wits of the court, to observe, that it was a repertory of her late Majesty's the late Queen's.

THE Duke of Richelieu, arrived at the seat of his Government, exacted every honor due to such distinction. A faithful observer of customs and etiquette, he would not derogate from any point, and consulted the most eminent registers of the province, to secure to himself that consideration he was resolved to enforce. In the privileges he claimed, some differences of opinion arose, between the Parliament and the Archbishop of Narbonne, on his right to exercise them; but expert in negotiation, he adjusted every one of them with credit to his station.

HE found the province rent in factions from the intoleration of the clergy, in regard to the Protestants, whose children, torn from the bosom of their Parents, were forcibly conveyed to Catholic Col-

leges,

leges, and compelled to be educated in that persuasion. The Bishops thought, gibbets and the terror of Lettres de Cachet, would operate the most effectually in their conversion. Saint Florentin, and the intendant of the province, were Ministers of their absurdity, and executed blindly what folly suggested. Every sense of apprehension, that despair might occasion a revolt, seemed to be disregarded and equally every idea forgotten, that Lewis XIV. however his Military strength, and Villars' victory, had nevertheless seen the necessity of compromising.

RICHELIEU, sensible of the ferment that reigned, tried to compose the agitation of the people's minds; and not fully able to repress the evil at once, he wisely thought, a palliative would be expedient, in at least lessening it's progress.—His instructions went to gain the province to induce a ready assent, for a large contribution, which the wants of the state required, and it is pleasing to relate, that his insinuating talents and conciliatory mode of acting secured the vote of an aid, to as great an extent as the Monarch and his Ministers had been led to entertain.

THE Dutchess, his wife, was brought to bed of a daughter, who in the process of time, became Madame D'Egmont. But the sequel of her lying in not being favorable, she wished to quit the air of Montpellier, and return to Paris. Their Hôtel being occupied, she went and lived with her father. Unfortunately the change of air was of no avail. The disorder had acquired too powerful a hold, to be removed by art; and the fatigue of journeying had only accelerated the consumption. The Duke, informed of her danger, flew to Paris, and by his unremitted attention and visible apprehensions for her safety, convinced the world, that however inconstant, it was the defect of constitutional habit, and not the want of a sincere attachment, for so noble and worthy an object of his regard. The night she resigned her last breath*, scarcely was he retired to rest, than the servants ran to advise him of the Dutchess' immediate danger. They had separated but an hour before, and the Dutchess feeling her strength decline, had collected herself to conceal, by his withdrawing, the pain of her dying moments. Perceiving him returned, she manifests her concern, that her attendants should have been so officious; but "since you are here, (she observed) and must

* In the month of August, 1740.

" cruelly

“ cruelly be a witness of my dying pang, receive,
 “ my friend and beloved husband, my last embrace,
 “ and may you and my children enjoy, ’till we
 “ meet again, uninterrupted happiness :” with these
 last words she expired.

THE Duke, frantic with grief, is with difficulty torn from her arms, and instantaneously departs for Richelieu, accompanied by a friend, the Marquis de Crévecœur, who incessantly administered the balm of consolation to his afflicted mind. In this solitude they remained one month, without admitting any other company.

It has been said that Richelieu only benefited by the honor of this alliance, the Princess having no marriage portion. But from that disposition of human affairs, which, to those born fortunate, often attend them, in the most unexpected instances, throughout life ; so in this, the Duke, who was ever successful in his pursuits, came by one of these, into the possession of more than sixty thousand livres per annum, in addition to his paternal income. The Prince de Guise, her only brother, serving in Italy, whilst under the operation of his hair dresser, and amusing himself in conversing with some of his brother officers in the room with him,

suddenly

suddenly rose, and reaching a loaded pistol, applied the muzzle to his mouth, gaily asking if that was the manner people blew out their brains? In a second the trigger was drawn and laid the Prince on the floor dead. No motive could be assigned for so rash an act. He was in the enjoyment of three millions a year from his estates, an advantageous person, a favorite with the sex, and, in every respect, his existence appeared fraught with the greatest happiness. The Duke, knowing him subject to fits of absence, imputed, to one of those undescribable moments, the cause of his good fortune.

CHAP. IV.

THE DUKE OF RICHELIEU RETURNS TO VERSAILLES, CONSOLATES HIMSELF IN FREQUENT INTERVIEWS WITH THE PRINCESS DE ROHAN. HE IS CONFIDENT OF THE KING'S PASSION FOR MADAME DE LATOURNELLE, SINCE BETTER KNOWN AS DUTCHESS DE CHATEAURoux. ANECDOTES ON THIS SUBJECT.

GRIEF that is violent is seldom durable, and probably this maxim was more evinced in Richelieu, than in others; he felt a calm resignation, on quitting the country, to the effect of the divine will; and, returned to the circle of a Court, he suffered imperceptibly the chains of Madame de Rohan to gain on him. The husband of this Princess was in an advanced age, and, always residing at Versailles, gave the Duke the frequent opportunity
of

of paying his Court. Altho' deprived by years of that bloom of youth, he still enjoyed, over the young men of the age, the superiority of a well founded theory, aided by long practice, together with an amiability of disposition, few could possess. He fixed the Princess' notice, and having attained this point, he was not long in improving the continuation of her good opinion.

INHABITING the Gallery assigned to the Princes, attendant on the Court, the Duke used to wait on the Princess, by means of a back stair, his approach was announced by one of her women honored with her confidence. The Princess' figure was elegant, and to a regular Beauty, united the perfection of a most cultivated understanding; with such advantages over others of her sex, she exacted undivided homage, and her pride felt deeply wounded in reflecting, that the expectation had proved illusive. Thus the commencement of this connection, which had been pleasing to both, became from the report of designing people, a source of torment. Jealousy intervened, and imparted it's poison to the husband through the means of his brother the Cardinal, to whom the suspicion being first communicated, he was glad of

an opportunity, however occurred in his family to avenge the unpleasant adventure the Duke had subjected him to the mortification of experiencing.

MONSIEUR de Rohan could not give credit to his wife being unfaithful, yet so many assurances to this effect reaching him from various quarters, he determined to have her conduct narrowly watched. The lovers had been apprized of the suspicions excited, and resolved to be more circumspect. The Prince adopted one of the most hackneyed means on these occasions.—He pleaded his absence from Versailles was requisite for some days, engaged his wife during his absence to remain at Paris at the Hôtel de Soubise. Her acquiescence is without hesitation and immediate, she gives notice to the Duke to meet her there. Hardly arrived, and making the necessary dispositions for the enjoyment of this opportune happiness, than the Princess's woman enters affrighted, and announces Monsieur's coming. In haste the Duke retires into the maid's room, and followed, he endures the pain of the best part of a cold night, without covering, listening to the interested discussion that prevails between her and the Prince. His uneasiness is soon relieved. The maid resists every offer, acquits her Mistress,

satisfies

satisfies the Prince, and joins the concealed lover, who bountiful in pecuniary rewards and other proofs of his regard, compensates to the maid for her fidelity, and to himself for his disappointment, experienced with the Princess, by the unwelcome interruption.

THE Prince, fully persuaded that no woman of a low condition, would have resisted the magnificence of his offer, concluded his wife must be innocent, in which opinion, being repeatedly confirmed by her maid servant, he lamented the evil of mankind, disposed to overset the harmony of the happiest Matrimonial state. The caution of the lovers, after this warning, by only indulging, in the seeing of each other by day, fixed his judgment; and he incessantly regretted having yielded to the voice of calumny against so respectable a consort, on whose account, he was ever after divested of all suspicion.

THE Duke de Richelieu fully indulged in this attachment, by his constant sojournment at Court. The King, who preserved only exterior respect to the Queen, had formed, within his palace a society for himself, where the restraint of etiquette being banished, the subject was admitted

to a footing with the Monarch, and in this pleasing union, the service of attendance on Majesty became desirable.—Madame de Mailly was the favorite of this party. The King professed admiring her exclusively, and abandoned himself in her company to every excess.—Champaigne in large libations was the fashion, and the Monarch often felt he had sacrificed too much to Bacchus, to permit any offering to Venus. Madame de Mailly thought, that in partaking of every relish for pleasure, the Monarch manifested, would fix him to her car.—The Courtiers and Richelieu saw differently.—The latter particularly judged a woman's reign could not be long, where a deficiency of beauty, in comparison to others, always envying the Monarch's preference, and a difference of years, likewise existed. In fact the proof soon was given. Madame de Vintimille, one of her sisters, pleased the King, and died in Childbed a short time after.—This was scarcely a momentary relief to the inconstancy of her lover.—The blood of the Nesles seemed to carry a particular attraction to inspire the Monarch ; and Madame de Mailly's peace of mind was much disturbed in seeing her youngest Sister, Madame de la Tournelle, since

created Dutcheſs de Châteauroux, triumph completely in engroſſing his Maſteſty's ſole attention.

Exiled from the Court, Madame de Mailly, a prey to remorse and repentance, was more to be compared to Magdalen Penitent, than Madame de la Valliere. This latter one threw herſelf into a convent, and dedicated ſolely to the deity that heart her lover had rejected. Solitude, exerciſes of piety, and ſevere mortifications, reſtored a certain calm to her mind. No one reminded her of the errors committed;—for ſhe felt ſufficiently humiliated, without being upbraided, and in conſtant tears aſſuaged the fault of youth. In a cloyſter, where obſervers are not permitted, her ſins were buried with her. On the contrary, Madame de Mailly, found energy enough to continue in the world. Still attached to life, ſhe never reſorted to any place without being the object of marked contempt. In vain, were Prayers and Charity employed to obtain the pardon of an offended and miſtaken public. They conſidered, and reproached her, with ſeducing their young monarch, in terms the moſt opprobrious and unjuſtifiable. Her income, however inconfiderable, was diſtributed in ſuccouring the unfortunate, and in thoſe, relieved by her means, ingratitude often

was

was experienced. Time even operated not in her favor. At her death, the mourning procession, though by her directions, simple and unattended, was, yet in it's progress to the place of interment, repeatedly insulted.

THE Marquise de la Tournelle, succeeding to the Monarch's affections, on the death of her sister, Madame de Vintimille, appeared the one of the three sisters, to whom the King was most partial. With a noble deportment, she added great mildness of temper and affability. There were two others of the same blood. One, the wife of the Marquis de Flavacourt; the other, Mademoiselle de Montcavrel, since Dutche's of Lauragais. Madame de la Tournelle was a widow, and during marriage her conduct had been correct, with the exception of appearing too particular with the Duke de Agènois, (the late Duke of Aiguillon, deceased). She had been more intimate than any of her other sisters, with the Marchioness de Flavacourt; and often witnessed the brutality of the Marquis, in assuring his wife, he would put an end to her if she dared ever to pursue the steps of her elders. The Duke de Agènois, in intimacy with Richelieu, his relation, imparted the connection he had formed, and soon after

introduced

introduced him into the party, where Madame de Flavacourt, made the fourth. A close attachment ensued, and their meetings were frequent. The Prince of Conti, and a friend of his, Monsieur Duménil, * tried for admission, but were rejected. Coming one evening to the Duke de Richelieu's, they arrived at the moment the Ladies and the two Cousins were stepping into the Duke's carriage, to go and sup at a Villa, adjacent to Paris. They begged to be considered of the number, and entrance in the vehicle being denied, they mount behind, and when it stops, the Ladies are astonished to see those gentlemen offering to hand them out. Necessity was made a virtue of, and they were initiated into the privacy of this select company.

RICHELIEU's coachman, a young man of some humour, perceiving the Prince and his companion, reminded them of an established forfeit to those servants, when first mounting behind their Master's carriages. The Prince searches for his Purse, and says I have no money ! " who the devil then should have any, if a Prince is without ? " The next day his smart repartee was nobly rewarded.

* Died Lieut. General, and owed his rapid promotion to Madame de Châteauroux.

THIS intimacy of the Duke de Richelieu with Madame de la Tournelle created an idea in the world, that she had been his Mistress; and to, ingratiate himself with his Sovereign, he had sacrificed her to his liking. We thought such an opinion justly founded, 'till the evidence of manuscripts and letters discovered fully attested the contrary, and indubitably proved, the Duke was only the confident of this Lady's partiality.

HOWEVER capable the Duke was to advance his fortune by any means, and considering the King's pleasure as absolute, the truth, we profess to disclose, obliges us to contradict this anecdote so generally accepted as fact; and to oppose, to the authority of the historians who have written the private life of Lewis XV. the anecdotes of Persia, wherein this is recorded, that we possess, and are extant, twenty letters from the said Dutches to Richelieu, on interesting subjects, and in which, the Dutches addresses him under the title of her dear uncle.

THE world are acquainted, that the Dutches of Mazarine, the aunt of the de Nesle's, shewed them great attachment, and particular marks of esteem to Mesdames de Flavacourt and de la Tournelle;

nelle ; but it is possibly uninformed, that on their aunt's death, the Queen sent for these ladies, and bewailed their loss ; assuring them she would become a substitute for the mother, whom they regretted. The attendant in waiting, who witnessed this moving scene, was much affected, and with pleasure reported it's particulars, as doing her Majesty's humanity so much honor.

THIS virtuous Queen had little reason to conceive, kindness bestowed, would be so ungratefully repaid ; and that this said Madame de la Tournelle, whom she had treated with such distinction, would in the space of scarcely one month, by succeeding to her sisters, ravish, for ever from her, the heart of that husband, to whom she had been so strongly attached. This lady had been admitted into the parties of Choisy. His Majesty, occupied in attention to Madame de Vintimille, took little notice of the person, who, of all her relations, suggested the idea, that no one was more proper to console him, for his loss, than the sister herself. His faithful le Bel was the agent applied to through his means, an appointment was made, and soon the Lady was provided with a lodging in the palace of Versailles, without any absolute suspicion having arisen.

THE Duke de Richelieu has been so candid, in communicating to the public the situation, he found Madame de la Tournelle at Court, that no possibility of doubt can exist of the statement according with truth. Yet, if any did, the corroborating report of Monsieur de Chasmosel, father of Monsieur de Talaru, is sufficient to explode all further cause. This gentleman, occupying the apartments below Madame de la Tournelle, often witnessed the nocturnal visits his Majesty honored her with, before she was announced and publicly recognized as Mistress to the Monarch.—The Duke explains himself on this subject to his friends Mesdames de Mauconseil and Luxembourg, in the manner following:

“ You believe, Ladies, as well as the public, than whom often no worse judgment can be founded, because it is generally passed, a knowledge of the parties, or possibility of ocular proof, that it is I, who have had the honor of introducing Madame de Châteauroux to Majesty. In crediting this, you are in an equal error, with others. Not, that I should have had any scruple in being useful and instrumental to any Master's pleasures. Sacrifices of all kinds are made to passion, and I see no rea-

son

son for blushing, in procuring to a sovereign, the enjoyment of the most precious gift on earth, a beautiful woman. If the King had commanded me to solicit either of yourselves in his favor, I should most certainly have acquitted myself of my message, and with you, would have been the determination. It appertains not to a subject to question the nature, or discuss on the propriety of the orders his Master gives. An obedience is indispensable ; and in regard to women, into whose intimacy he may express his desire of admission, the same obligation rests, as on any other point, of facilitating his wishes ; with the sole exception of the person's own wife, on whom his commands are laid.—You may thence conceive, I could have had no hesitation, to have been his Majesty's first emissary to Madame de Chateauroux ; and no principle acting to reject such a commission, you will conclude, that my veracity cannot be impeached, when I inform you, I had never an opportunity of this kind given me. His choice was made either before I was apprized, or he had other servants, equally faithful, and prompt in compliance. But, I avow, that no sooner was his selection known, than I employed every art to establish myself, on

a good footing with the favorite. Binet and Meuse were those, who terminated Madame de Pompadour's, the first sketch of which had been drawn, as his Majesty was hunting in the forest of Senars.— And no soul is ignorant, that from le Bel Israng the rapid and astonishing fortune which Madame du Barré attained.

“ I confess few women ever inspired me with so real and fixed an attachment as Madame de Châteauroux ; and accordingly in her death, I deplored the loss of a most valuable friend ; a woman, constantly intent in improving the Monarch's regard in my behalf, informing me of every thing passing, and never omitting the smallest opening of doing me service. I should also say in honor of her memory, that the king suffered a great loss, and I likewise add, the kingdom partook of his grief ; for no woman elevated to such splendor, ever merited more a Monarch's confidence. Far from others of her sex nursing the Monarch in effeminacy, she stimulated him to honorable pursuits.—In short, she loved his glory, and delighted he should contribute to it by personal actions.

“ MADEMOISELLE de Charolois, who in the bloom of youth, could not enchain me to her

car, lost all ascendancy, when age to a haughty temper, had deprived her of the power of pleasing. Too vindictive to pardon my wrongs, she sought, to raise an enemy in Madame de Mailly, who, in conjunction with Madame de Ventenille, her sister, governed at that period the Monarch. I foresaw the King's inclination for this lady would not be lasting, and possibly, I might have hinted the impression I had formed, from the different parties of pleasure of the Court, in which I was always numbered. Envious of this intimacy, Mademoiselle de Charolois insinuated to the Sisters, it was erroneous conferring on me such distinctions; that of all men, I was less entitled to a preference in their notice; since the libertinage, to which I was addicted, would make me seize the first occasion of diverting the Monarch's attachment to another object.

“ I HAD often in conversation given it as my opinion, that constancy in mankind was a perfection not to be looked for; and the more indulgent a wife was to her husband's failings, the less I thought, he would be liable to err. Such sentiments, with Mademoiselle de Charolois' advice, effected the end proposed. I was fixed upon as the

the person who would indubitably lead the King, from attachments, however, he might intend as permanent; and therefore, as a security to their reign, these Ladies judged, I must be removed from the Monarch's presence. Immediately, every means were put in exertion, to injure me in the Prince's mind; and I had the misfortune, with others, of experiencing, that the more he listened to unfavourable reports of me, the greater kindness he manifested outwardly. At length the mine was exploded, in one of his supper parties. I felt as wounded in hearing him address me in these words, "Duke de Richelieu," (said he,) "I am credibly informed your Castle at Richelieu is in need of repairs; as a friend therefore, and wishing you well, I recommend, the superintendance of them, to your immediate direction."

"ALTHOUGH boiling with indignation from the success of the plot, yet my presence of mind did not forsake me; and without appearing disconcerted, I thanked his Majesty for the interest he graciously was pleased to take, in what regarded me. Perfectly understanding the sense of such friendship, displayed for my personal concerns, I made the immediate arrangement to obey; and as I entered my doors, giving it out, that I was fatigued and wearied

ed with dissipation, to the degree of rendering absence requisite for my health, I ordered my carriage to be ready by day light next morning to convey me to the country. At Court, the deception could not prevail, however I flattered myself; and I left Paris oppressed with regret, trusting to Madame de Rohan, whom I was in correspondence with, to give me information of what should occur, during my absence.

“ ARRIVED at Richelieu, I commanded the services of one of the first architects, and although the Castle was in perfect repair, I was obliged, from etiquette to the Monarch's declaration, to prescribe some changes and additional buildings—I even took a pleasure in inspecting the progress of the workmen, and as a Being transformed, extolled to the gentlemen in my vicinity the delight of a country life, abstracted from the benefit my health derived, by attention to regulate my hours, exercise, and air; assiduous in conciliating their esteem, they appeared rejoiced in my having come among them; and ignorant of the cause, they joined in recommending me to dedicate a few months to this new life, to which opinion, unacquainted with the period of my banishment, I readily subscribed.

“I BEGAN however to feel that lassitude and melancholy, inseparable to a man habituated to so different a course of past time; and inwardly moaned for the moment, which was to recall me to that situation in life, that, in my idea, happiness alone, or pleasure rather, was comprehended. The first letters I received, animated my hopes. I was advised, the King seldom passed a day, without mentioning me, expressing his surprize of my long absence. I had been only fifteen days at Richelieu. A few posts after, a letter from the Duke D’Estillac, assured me, I might return without apprehension; as his Majesty had said, “ he thought I pouted, since such
 “ time surely was not requisite for giving orders to
 “ an architect.” The Duke added, “ your absence
 “ has confirmed every one of the footing you hold
 “ in the Monarch’s esteem, who is sensible of a vacuum in his pleasures when you are not present;
 “ and you thence may rely, that however, in common with all courtiers, you may be subjected to
 “ the consequence of little intrigues at Court, they
 “ will never be attended with interruption of any
 “ weight to the pursuit of your fortune.” Enchanted with the approaching triumph over my enemies, whom I then had not ascertained, in respect to this little

mortify me; moved on at the slowest pace. I was compleatly foused; when the porters set the chair down, close to a back Stair-case; and I saw the King come out, making me a signal to take no notice of him. We accordingly, in silence, ascended together, into the apartment of Monsieur de Vouréal, then Ambassador of Spain. His Majesty opened the door and shut it. We traversed the antichamber; without meeting any one, and he then left me with direction to await his return out of the next apartment; in which he had been introduced: covered with dirt, not a dry thing on me, no fire either to relieve the cold that pinched me, I began to curse the subaltern office of a confident; and to reflect, since it was not fully bestowed, a man of my rank and dignity could well be dispensed with performing it. I then felt humiliated; and absorbed in imagining who could be the woman the cause of my torment? His Majesty appeared. Observing my habiliment, he burst into a loud laugh, jocosely saying "the pretty figure, I defy the devil to know "him"—I followed, not much flattered with this exclamation; and still less so, when the same silence and mystery prevailing, as in coming, I

was

was, after accompanying him to the place he had found me in waiting, prescribed by a sign of his hand, to withdraw.

“ RETURNED home, I was affrighted at my own appearance; and him of my attendants, who generally participated with his master, in these nocturnal excursions wittily amusing himself in undressing me, judged from his jest being ill received, I had not been successful in this. I was indignant, after what I had suffered, His Majesty had not thought proper to disclose to me the object, for whom I underwent such penitence; and in this ill humour, I would not meet the engagement I had made to suffer; but fulkily, and against my custom of early hours, went to bed.

“ THE next day, I had every temptation to return to Paris, but eager to discover who this idol could be, to whom his Majesty sacrificed so mysteriously, I was restrained obeying the dictates of my pride from this mere curiosity. I went to his Levee,—I fixed my eyes on him and could not penetrate the reason, that cast his, from me. He was to amuse himself that day with the diversion of hunting, which I resolved to partake of, and to watch the opportunity of speaking to him

alone. Several occurred, but still the same obstinate silence. At length he broke out, remarking " I was singularly suited to the disguise of a Coachman, and he would afford me the same pleasure, that very night, at a similar hour." I knew not, whether I had cause to rejoice or to lament the same scene, in the honor intended me.

" The hour struck, same signal, same silence, and though the weather this night was more favorable, yet I conceived my mission would not be more so, particularly when the King quitted me, to enter the inner room. I was however agreeably mistaken. A quarter of an hour had scarcely elapsed, ere he appeared again, and with the benignant smile of Majesty, graciously said, " it is but just, an end should be put to the torment of mind you have endured; so faithful a servant deserves a return of confidence. Come, (says he) that I may present you to the divinity who is concealed; relying fully in your discretion." I followed him with anxiety, and who should it be but, Madame de la Tournelle? This Lady arose, as we entered, and covered her face with a handkerchief. " Be in no apprehension, (says the King) in what regards the secrecy of one of your friends,

“ friends, in whom, you know, our confidence can-
 “ not be misplaced. Besides, added the Monarch,
 “ the burthen of the secret will not be long ; for
 “ I am persuaded he will coincide with me, in ha-
 “ ving our connection soon made public , and my
 “ happiness thereby known to my people.

“ I ASSURED his Majesty he could not do bet-
 “ ter than persevere in the resolution he now an-
 “ nounced, and that the sooner his subjects were
 “ acquainted with the domestic felicity of their be-
 “ loved Monarch, the greater the satisfaction they
 “ would derive. I concluded with professing my
 “ respect, and the most implicit submission to the
 “ will of either. The King, appeared to me ex-
 “ ceedingly taken with the charms of Madame de
 “ la Tournelle—I had never observed him so strong-
 “ ly attached, which, a declaration to this effect re-
 “ peatedly expressed ; and I could not help admi-
 “ ring the singularity of destiny, that caused
 “ the King’s attachments and pleasures to center in
 “ one family. In this moment I knew not the
 “ Monarch. No private individual, entertaining a
 “ friendship for another, his equal, could have shone
 “ more, in displaying the sentiments that affected
 “ him. It was to me one of the most pleasing
 “ days I ever passed, and I am sure, none could oc-

“ cur,

“ cur, wherein the distance, between the monarch
 “ and the subject, could have been so impercepti-
 “ ble. But this was a talent peculiar to this amia-
 “ ble Sovereign.

“ MADAME de la Tournelle marked the sa-
 “ tisfaction derived from the selection of the Mo-
 “ narch's confidence ; and promised, to consider
 “ me, as his Majesty directed, in the light of a
 “ friend. The King entreated again she would re-
 “ new her protestations, and pledged himself that
 “ nothing could come, in opposition, to disturb
 “ the harmony of a friendship, commenced in a
 “ manner so auspicious. I was on the summit of
 “ happiness, and felt more than fully compensated
 “ for the anxiety and mortification of the preceding
 “ night. The King's election carried in view the
 “ most flattering result to my expectations. I knew
 “ the Lady capable of attachment, and entertain-
 “ ing the greatest partiality in my favor, I was
 “ sensible likewise her influence would be all pow-
 “ erful, and in the pleasing assurances of such ex-
 “ ertion, I anticipated the greatest enjoyment.

“ WHAT a difference to be with a Sovereign
 “ in those moments of relaxation, where divested
 “ of the pomp and trappings of royalty, the glory
 “ and

“ and dignity of station surrounding him vanishes :
 “ in such, we find him the amiable man, and our
 “ equal. But in those, where public ceremony
 “ demands his appearance as Sovereign, how vari-
 “ ed are our feelings and relative situation. At
 “ that juncture, no possibility of questioning him,
 “ neither that of speaking ; but on the contrary,
 “ every eye awaiting his regard, with a hope of me-
 “ riting the being distinguished, by some token of
 “ his approbation. Some days after this scene in
 “ which I was so greatly honored, his Majesty’s at-
 “ tachment became public ; and the Court, as I had
 “ done, testified their astonishment, in seeing Ma-
 “ dame de Tournelle, whose conduct had been
 “ without suspicion, succeed to a greater elevation,
 “ than either of her sisters, who preceded her in
 “ the Monarch’s attention.”

CHAP. V.

*THE WAR OF 1742--THE DUKE OF RICHELIEU IS EMPLOYED
IN FLANDERS; SUBSEQUENTLY ON THE RHINE; HE
SIGNAL ZES HIMSELF AT THE BATTLE OF DRETINGEN.
HE IS CREATED FIRST LORD OF THE BEDCHAMBER TO
HIS MAJESTY; & PREFERRED TO THE RANK OF LIEU-
TENANT GENERAL.*

ON the death of the Emperor Charles VI. who left an only Daughter as Heiress to his possessions, a desire arose of humbling the House of Austria. With this view a plan was approved and adopted, given in by the Count of Belleisle, a man endowed with talents and a spirit for enterprise, Grandson to the celebrated, and in the end, unfortunate Fouquet, projecting to place the Imperial

perial Crown on the head of the Elector of Bavaria. The Count was, in consequence, deputed as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the diet assembling at Frankfort, and soon after named to command the army with the dignity conferred of Maréchal of France. The Diet recognize the Elector of Bavaria's claims, and proclaim him Emperor. His elevation to the Empire is without commotion, and the resolution enacted in the most solemn manner.

THIS resolution, regarding the succession, was attended with every success; and had the Cardinal possessed common foresight, the long and disastrous war, that succeeded would have been prevented. Too economical, with a mind unaccustomed to embrace great objects, he suffered the moment to elapse.—Instead of giving the measure prompt and decisive efficiency of the co-operation of a formidable army, he wasted the portion of time requisite, by minute calculation on the expence and number of the troops; 'till the enemy aroused, by the fortitude, courage of mind, and magnanimity, which an heroine in her misfortunes displayed, actuated in determining them to arm in her support; and from subjects panic struck,

were

were transformed into heroes to avenge her wrongs;

THE Elector of Bavaria, become Emperor under the name of Charles the Seventh, too elated with the success, that in the commencement attended the progress of his arms, thought he might deviate from the sequel of operation laid down by the Marechal. In lieu, therefore, of marching straight to Vienna, where terror was impressed; he contrary to advice, penetrated into Bohemia. Some towns taken, promised well for the event of that campaign, which, future checks so completely overthrew. History has recounted the fate of the remnant of those troops, done justice to their bravery and to the masterly skill of their commander, immortalizing his retreat from Prague by fixing the tactic displayed, on a footing with Xenophon's. He evacuated Prague on the night of the 16th December, in the rigor of winter, and marching his troops day and night reached Egra without interruption.—Assailed by the intenseness of the frost, eight hundred of the number benumbed with cold, perished on the road.

If this action, so deservedly recorded amongst the most famous annals, acquired for the nation and General a degree of celebrity, it could not com-

penstate

penfate for the public misfortune, incurred by a profufion of men and money fo unprofitably facrificed. The titular Emperor's own electorate fell a prey to the ravage of the enemy, and himfelf obliged to abandon Munich, took a refuge at Augfburg, from whence he was again forced to fly to Frankfort, where alone he found a temporary afylum.

IN the mean while England had declared war againft Spain, with whom the Cabinet of Verfaulles had lately entered into an alliance, by the marriage of Madame of France, with Don Philip, Infant of Spain. The Englifh without the previous form, which the laws of nations have eftablifhed, iffued orders for a general feizure of all veffels under French Colors, which obliged France to direct reprisals being made on their fhipping.

THE Duke of Richelieu, in the King's confidence, and the Mentor of the favorite, enjoyed, at Court, the happieft fituation. Pleafure reigned around him. Madame de Tencin, the Prefidente Portail, and Madame de Mauconfeil, vied with each other, who fhould pleafe him moft; the latter of thefe Ladies was attached likewise to the Count D'Argenfou, the Minifter of the war de-

partment. Richelieu, accustomed to render his attachments subservient to his interest, gave this Lady a decided preference, which serving him effectually with the Count, the Duke, inspired with gratitude, continued a lasting regard for her, to the moment of her death; an event that occurred a few years preceding his own.

It was the result of a consultation between the favorite and the Duke, which induced the King to declare his intention of heading his troops—much to this Lady's honor, her energy of mind was such, that in ambitioning to become the mistress of the Monarch, she aspired to rule as the favorite of a King, dignified by glorious actions, and not rendered despicable by effeminacy. No character was ever more similar than her's to Agnes Sorel. Both mistresses of weak monarchs, attached alone to their pleasures and unbounded voluptuousness, they stimulated their lovers to exertion, worthy of the situation they bore. Charles the seventh, resting his sole enjoyment in the possession of Agnes, saw the English reduce his dominions, without taking any active part to check their progress and Lewis XV. equally indolent, and sensual, appeared unmoved at the miseries of his Kingdom. The first of these uncommon women
had

had the happiness of living to behold the completion of her work; the life of the second was too short, though, before her death, she derived the satisfaction of having acquired him the title of well beloved, owing to the measure he had at her suggestion undertaken. It is melancholy to think, that once so flattering an homage bestowed from subjects to their sovereign, the latter seemed perfectly indifferent in meriting it's continuance.

THE moment that war is declared, Richelieu requests being employed; and receives orders to act with the army commanded by Maréchal de Noailles, in Flanders. This campaign was productive of no important events, as the body of troops the Maréchal commanded, were meant as a diversion to facilitate the operations of the grand army, in force on the Rhine. He quits, in disgust, and returns to Paris to solicit his services may be directed to a scene of more activity, and consequently more conformable to his ardor of acquiring renown.

THE campaign of 1743, corresponded to his desire. He has not the good fortune of partaking in a Victory, but that of braving many perilous situations, which command applause for the courage and presence of mind, in conduct displayed. The

Maréchal

Maréchal de Noailles, intent on commanding armies, more versed in the theory of the art of war, than expert and profound as a General, and better calculated for the senate, where œconomy of disposition and regularity might have rendered his services of greater use to the state, was rapidly advancing towards the Rhine at the head of forty thousand men. Between Dettinghen and Aschaffenburg, on the banks of the Maine, he met with the encampment of the allied forces, English, Hanoverians, and Hessians. Its position was so injudicious, that the Maréchal immediately avails himself of the mistake committed, by compelling without the hazard of an engagement his enemies to surrender. In this view, he lines the banks of the river with his formidable artillery; and places twelve thousand of his choicest troops to intercept the passage to Dettinghen, the only debouché, the army had to effect their retreat in case, as was judged, the change of their position, from want of provisions, became indispensable.

The King of England, who had joined the army, apprized by Marshal Stair of its critical situation, resolves, as the only alternative to save it, to decamp under favor of the night, in the greatest silence. The vigilance of the Count de Noailles penetrating their intention, he intimates to his fa-

ther

ther the movement commenced, who immediately issued the order, for their being enveloped in the defile that necessity obliged them to enter ; and having given the direction retires to some other post, without the idea of his Nephew the Duke of Grammont, who commanded this body, precipitating a measure, which, had he obeyed the Maréchal's injunction, ensured success. Instead of awaiting the favorable moment of attacking them, when entangled in this narrow pass, he rushes on the enemy in a plain, where equal valour and an equal front was opposed ; and from the previous concerted station of the artillery incapacitated it from acting, unless risking it's effect on the French troops. The Maréchal should have staid to see his orders executed. It was unpardonable in him to absent himself, and subject to imprudence and rashness of others, the loss of that opportunity, which would have immortalized him, and probably added to his laurels the honor of a captive King.

IN this action the detachment alone, occupying the post where it had been fixed at, had to resist the impression of a whole army, which pressure proving too powerful, notwithstanding the heroism displayed, was forced to give way ; the
regiment

regiment of guards, not seconding the efforts of their colleagues, to maintain an orderly retreat, a general dismay ensued, and the troops fled on all sides. Many of the officers, abandoned by their men, preferred being sacrificed, to surviving such dishonor; and the best families of France had most of them cause for mourning the disaster, such neglect had occasioned. The Duke de Rochecouart perished, whose charge of first Lord of the Bedchamber was conferred some time after on Richelieu.

The Maréchal de Noailles arrived at this moment to save a part of the army, his presence caused some troops to rally, and gave time to the rest to recover their panic—the Duke had a horse shot under him, exposing his person in the heat of the action, combating at the head of the regiment of Rohan, anciently his own, and alternately, at the head of that of Piedmont. These regiments led on so gallantly, had suffered great loss. They formed the rear Guard; In the Duke's former regiment, four hundred men were laying on the field of battle, and forty-two officers; and fortune, that protected him, brought him out of the action unhurt, though the last man that crossed the river.

NOTWITHSTANDING

NOTWITHSTANDING the victory obtained, the English did not encamp on the field of battle, but pursued their route to Hanover. The Duke of Richelieu, was left to take charge of the wounded and the care of burying the dead. In this unpleasant duty, his regret was excited greatly, in seeing men of his quality laying indiscriminately with the soldier. Traversing the melancholy scene, a fund of observation occurred—he overheard two wounded soldiers lamenting pleasantly, however serious their accident, each other's misfortune.—A cannon ball had carried away the legs of one, and a musquet ball in an horizontal direction had, without wounding the skull, blinded the other. In this state they were drinking out of a small bottle together, when the Duke and his people appeared. The blind man conceiving the alarm to be a party of the enemy, the other said, it was indifferent to him, for unless they chose to come and meet with him, he certainly should not go and seek them; to which remark, his comrade as aptly subjoined; he did not care whether they came on his rear or his front, as any how, he should not experience the sorrow of seeing his conquerors.—The Duke took these brave men under his immediate protection, and one of
them

them surviving, owed to his attention, the latter part of his days being made comfortable by a suitable provision.

THIS decisive and bloody battle spread desolation throughout the kingdom; and Maréchal de Noailles was justly blamed, for hazarding, what fortune had put into his hands. Madame de la Tournelle, recently created Duchess de Châteauroux, much attached to the Maréchal, and his protectress, could not divest herself from condemning his conduct. In her letters to Richelieu, whom, she addresses as her dear Uncle, the sentiments imparted merit approbation; and profiting by this epoch, she renewed her entreaties to his Majesty to command his armies in person. It was difficult to rouse the Monarch. His sensibility, though excited on the news of any disastrous event, seemed only the momentary cause of natural agitation, every trace disappearing when plunging again into relaxation. Madame de Châteauroux exercised however her empire, and what semblance of a King he manifested, the nation owed to her being indefatigable in spurring him to exertion.

RICHELIEU did not pass the winter at Paris. He remained in garrison at Strasburg, where his

correspondence

correspondence with the King commenced. Lewis XV. amused himself in journalising for his favorite, every occurrence at Court, and communicated it, as written by a third person. He detailed in a pleasant and humorous manner the ceremony of the marriage of the Duke of Orleans; the mode of presenting the shirt and shift to the bride and bridegroom, the latter of whom he observed, is from his gross figure, ill adapted to fulfill the rites. In another letter, he particularized the Ladies of his Court, either in his good graces, or afflicted with his displeasure, ending this epistle, by remarking that the death of the Duke de Rochechouart, occasions great intrigue, to succeed to the post his death vacates; several persons having demanded it for Monsieur de Richelieu, amongst others the Princess, (meaning Madame de Châteauroux), which, being known at Court, fixes the choice indubitably on him, and accordingly you may on my part, signify to him, that with pleasure the favor has been granted.

AFTER some time spent in great anxiety, the Duke at length receives the welcome letter.—Madame de Châteauroux announces the King's determination to head his army, details the selection of those to accompany him; and commending the little pomp he will be attended by, nobly observes,

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his

his pride and desire of glory, will be sufficiently gratified by the honor of leading a conquering army, without the necessity of being environed by the splendor of monarchy. She informs the Duke, he will be nominated one of his Majesty's Aides de Camp, and preferred to the rank of Lieutenant General.

SUCH a rapid succession of pleasing intelligence flattered greatly the Duke's imagination; who already anticipating the glory he would acquire in the presence of his Sovereign, felt every moment tedious that retarded the event; and relying on the good fortune that had attended him in his military career, he became almost insensible to danger, observing in his familiar epistles to the sex with whom he was in correspondence, that he ran much greater risk in pursuing that passion, than he could do in the field of honor, however exposing himself.

ABSENT from the capital, he was too good a Courtier not to be sedulous, in acquiring a perfect knowledge of the most minute incident passing in the place, which he considered as genial to the advance of his fortune. He was vigilant also in maintaining uninflected, those prerogatives he deemed

deemed attached to his charge at Court, and those appertaining to his rank of a Peer of France. The following Letters from the Count de Noailles, are in proof of his particularity on this subject. They are dated the 1st, 2d, and 3d of January, 1744.

“ IT is too agreeable, my dear Uncle, to be enabled to write without the apprehension of the letter being unsealed, not to seize the opportunity offered of communicating unreservedly with you.* I shall ask your permission to decline all eloquence, as not reconcileable with a faithful and concise narration of facts, that you simply require. I shall begin with an account of the Tournaments since you request a detail of them.

“ ON the day of the wedding † the Duke de Gesvres enquired of the King, if, it was his pleasure, Tournaments should be exhibited? His Majesty commanded them, and such as were displayed at the Marriage of Madame. The Duke de Gesvres in consequence named six persons of title, and proposed the Duke of Grammont for one.

* By this may be seen the pleasant pastime of the Count in endeavoring thereby to discover Criminals, or in amusing the King by learning the secrets of Families.

† That of the late Duke of Orleans, before mentioned.

But this Duke refused, alledging it was an impoliteness to women of a certain distinction; and the Dutchess publicly expressed her opinion, that it was astonishing the King should think of renewing this diversion, since the adventure of the Duke de Luines had occasioned it's prohibition. This observation was very ill received; and the Duke de Grammont's particularity in appearing the next day without any device affixed to his Garter, still more taken amiss. Those, who wore them, were the Marèschals of Noailles and Duras, the Dukes of Luxemburgh and Tallard, the Prince of Soubise and the Count de Noailles, who divided his with the Duke of Biron. They all went off very well, and His Majesty approved. Here ends this subject. We will now advert to what relates to the Government of Saumur.

“OUR worthy Cardinal having informed me of the dangerous state of Monsieur D'Aubigné, we were of one accord, that the Government of that district being contiguous to Richelieu, and yielding an income from 25 to 30,000 livres annually, would be a suitable appendage to your Revenue. I instantly quitted him to speak to the Princess.†

† Madame de Châteauroux.

You may well judge I did not wound the delicacy of her friendship by soliciting on your account. I noticed the likelihood of its approaching vacancy, and simply intimated my idea, it would suit your conveniency to hold. I was perfectly well received, desired to announce the moment it would occur, and what possibly may excite your surprize, thanked for the zeal and attachment I bore you. In the course of this negociation, the death of the young Duke de Rochechouart intervened*. I think however your success, in the latter, should not cause you to lose sight of the other, which is an advantage alone wanting. You may then surrender your Lieutenancy of Languedoc, which has cost you immense sums without deriving any compensation. In fact, it is only an ostensible dignity, which I conceive totally superfluous, where the individual unites in himself full consequence sufficient.

“ I SHALL not conceal from you, that those envious or designing courtiers, from whose esteem you are precluded, circulated at first, that the survivorship of this post, devolved in virtue of former promise given, to Mons. de Luxemburg, whilst a

* The King had given to the son the post of First Gentleman of the Bedchamber, which the Father, killed at the battle of Dettingen, held.

disinterested

disinterested public bestowed it with one voice on you, as the friend of the Monarch and of his beloved Idol. His Majesty's delay, in making known his intentions, rather excited wonder; but as the gift was so gracious, I am happy in the procrastination that arose. Surely, no Sovereign could excel in the mode of gratifying a subject! It was accompanied with such marked honor as silenced every courtier. My Father asked it for you from the King, and though I was sensible you stood in no need of his auxiliary aid, I was glad the Court was convinced by this step of the unity of affection between you. It may be a means of counteracting the unceasing endeavors to break this chain of interests with our families; which, the stronger it links together, the more flattering the perspective, to our conjoined pursuits.

" You should be acquainted that Messieurs Bachelier, Le Bel, and generally all those about the King's person, have rejoiced in your nomination.

" You will also be much pleased in learning that our Master drank to your health, the night at supper, of the day your mutton from the Ganges was eaten, which was greatly relished. I participated with my father in that you sent me, and we
both

both join in thanking you ; permitting me to add, in return for your attention, two hen turkeys.

“ I INTEND placing Fleury, the Swiss, as an attendant on my Father, a situation that cannot but be profitable, and which his services merit.

“ THE only thing new, that occupies the minds of the Court, is the intended appointment of Monsieur the Prince of Conti, to command in Italy ; and as you will know from others the key of this arrangement, I shall not enlarge thereon. Possibly, you may not have heard of the adventure of the coachman to Madame de Modène, who unguardedly laid his whip on the Bashaw, which caused the latter to draw his sword and wound him. Madame de Modène*, in lieu of excusing the ignorance and inadvertency of her servant to the Duke de Bouteville, was absurd enough to carry her complaints to his Majesty, demanding exemplary satisfaction for the insult to the equipage of a foreign Princess. The King smiled, observing the Ba-

* This Lady, after the Duke's journey to Modena, came often times under various pretexts to Paris ; and as many others, was one that felt humiliated, in discerning that her Lover's attachment was not permanent. Grief for her exile, and matrimonial disgust, had preyed wonderfully on her mind, and although young, had transformed the beautiful Dutchess of Valois into a being no longer interesting, than gratitude, from recollection, impressed.

shaw ought to have been more enduring; and here this rested. Meuse, who is attached to you, however you are told of the contrary, has been at Death's door. The Ladies of the Court were minute in their enquiry during his illness; and when the said Marquis reappeared, the King received him with such emotions of joy, as plainly denoted, he was in the good graces of the Monarch.

“MY Father has conformed to the King's wish, in giving a Commissary's post to Lujacques; and in this instance it was pleasing to remark the interest of His Majesty in the advancement of this young man's fortune.

“IN what regards affairs of a more serious nature, as I can only view them, but through a spying glass, this is nearly what presents to my imagination.

“I think the Sovereign is desirous of doing in all things what is right, and possesses actually more judgement and knowledge in matters of state than his Ministers. But having, in his education, been taught to entertain so perfect a reliance in their endeavors for the good administration of his kingdom, it is difficult to remove a principle so inculcated

culated and that gains daily fresh root, in diffidence of self acting. In this, and other respects, I see no change in our master since your absence.

“ The Ambassadors Florido and Montico, have been urging the appointment to the command of the troops in Italy ; but however great the exigency, an unaccountable delay has prevailed. Possibly it may be resolved on this evening, and if so, my journal of to-morrow will apprize you thereof.

“ SECOND January, 1744.—As I had foreseen and intimated to you, my very dear uncle, the Prince of Conti is named as the General for Italy. The Lieutenant Generals to act subordinate are yet unknown ; but to every appearance the Maréchal of Maillebois' service will be exempted. Some confer the distinction of first Lieutenant General for this army on Le Bailli de Gieri, and mention likewise, that the services of Messieurs du Kailla and de Lautree, will in this capacity, be commanded, with de Chevert's ; as Major General. In the mean while, Maillebois the son is posted as Quarter Master General, and Messieurs Campo and Montico applaud the selection of the General, in whom, no doubt, ability and courage are united.

"THE 3d January, 1744.—The King goes to the opera to-night, in company with Mesdames de Tallard, de Châteauroux, de Lauragais, de Flavacourt, and de Luxemburgh ; and abstracted from those Noblemen on duty, has commanded the attendance of Messieurs de Boufflers, de Meuse, and your humble Servant.

"HIS Majesty has signified his intention of changing the scene to Marli, on the 14th ensuing. You may be assured, the moment, for those to accompany, is fixed, and a list drawn out, I shall transmit a copy.

"OUR valuable prelate continues on tolerably well. His Eminency and my Father are on the best of terms, an union of course not pleasing to all. I doubt not of their persevering, for their good sense will dictate how useful it will be to both.

"MONSIEUR de Chavigny is at Court, and between ourselves, on an apparent brilliant footing.

"THE hour for the opera is approaching, and I am also busied in preparations for the journey, that is to take place. Deblet presses too for me to close, that he may take charge of my letter. My dear Uncle will therefore excuse my continuing, and be persuaded of the invariable attachment with which I am, &c. &c."

CHAP. VI.

THE DUKE DE RICHELIEU'S ATTACHMENT TO MADAME DE LA POPELINIERE.—BATTLE OF FONTENOY,—THE DUKE RETURNED TO PARIS, TAKES THE LEASE OF A HOUSE, ADJACENT TO THE FINANCIER'S.—HE CAUSES A MOVING SPIRAL CHIMNEY TO BE CONSTRUCTED, BY WHICH MEANS HE ENTERS THE APARTMENT OF HIS DIVINITY.—JEALOUSY ARISING FROM A PREFERENCE GIVEN TO HIS VALET DE CHAMBRE, CAUSES AN IMPROPER EXERTION OF AUTHORITY, IN SENDING THE PERSON, WHO HAD MADE THE CHOICE, TO THE HOUSE FOR REPENTANTS.

THE Duke de Richelieu, who had formed an acquaintance, at Madame de la Martellière with Monsieur de la Popelinier, a rich financier, renewed and sought his intimacy, from the knowledge he had of his recent marriage, with a very pretty woman. Monsieur de La P. had drawn her from a very low origin,

origin, thinking, that gratitude, for so great a change in her fortune, would operate in supplying, what was wanting on his part to please; and that to the former consideration, esteem and obligation would be succeeded by regard. He forgot, poor man! that the impression of the heart is voluntary, and totally abstracted from calculation or reflection.

His house was the rendezvous of the men of rank and genius in the capital. The most refined luxury was displayed, and continued festivals bespoke the magnificence of the landlord. Himself not young, nor much civilized in his manners, often conceived the riches and elevation, he had conferred, would atone for any harshness to his Lady, who saw herself constantly the object of admiration by the first noblemen. The Maréchal de Saxe, the Marquis de Meuse; and above all, Richelieu, aspired in the gaining her good graces. If the latter was not endowed with that youth so commanding in seduction, he united in himself the habit of conquest, and was fully versed in all that refinement of art, leading to success. At forty-nine, he was as dangerous to the sex, on whom his attention was bestowed, as at thirty; and Madame de la P. soon discerned, that if not the youngest of the competitors, for her favor, he was doubtless the most amiable.

HER

HER husband, intoxicated with the silly vanity of having his house frequented by the noblemen of the Court, had not penetration to see his wife was the attraction. He arrogated, to his personal consideration, and the goodness of his table, the honor of their visits. He passed his days in the greatest security, whilst the Duke had turned every avenue in his wife's affections against him. This woman, having once yielded to her prepossession, felt the force of her attachment, and wished for continual indulgence. The Duke, equally impassioned, was sensible grief had it's limit; and in the object of his adoration, soon forgot the interesting person, whose loss he had so recently deplored. Dissatisfied with dedicating his attention only by day, he sought the nights to witness his happiness. The Porter was bribed to facilitate his access, and Mademoiselle Dufour, admitted by the Lady in the secret of her choice, was an instrument whom the Duke found similarly propitious to his wishes.

In these nocturnal excursions, Richelieu was accompanied by a smart Valet de Chambre, named Stephano. The Duke, commissioned him to dispose the Maid in his favor. Stephano succeeded, but preserving a former attachment, in the person of Mademoiselle Aimée, Mistress of Monsieur de Pauce, Treasurer for the Army Disbursements,
this

this multiplied connection became a source of melancholy events in the end to the parties, as the sequel will shew.

THE Duke, for some months, enjoyed unmolested the pleasure of the company of this amiable woman; his and the Lady's servant being the only persons privy to their correspondence. It was necessary however, to conduct it hereafter with more mystery. Monsieur de la Popelinière had caught the alarm, and employing those Spies, whom money commands, to frustrate the most agreeable parties, the Duke had notice of his being narrowly watched. One of these emissaries was nearly falling a victim to Richelieu's violence, who seizing him in the act, was proceeding to inflict instantaneous and serious punishment. Fortunately, Stephano more collected than his Master, prevented consequences, which must have been attended with disgrace, if rendered public.

THE Duke assigned another task to this servant. Entertaining injurious suspicions, he directed his posting himself to observe, if others were admitted on a similar footing? His report was favorable, and deserving of no other particular, than the mode of concealment he adopted to ascertain. Every one that has been at Paris knows that large
hogheads

hogheads are placed in different parts of the town for the conveniency of the Hackney Coach houses, filled with water. One of these was emptied on the occasion, for which a certain gratuity was given to him who had charge; and in this, the faithful confidant took up his Lodgings for several nights.

THE festivals given in honor of the marriage of the Dauphin with the Infanta of Spain, afforded frequent opportunities of meeting. In these, the Duke bitterly complained of the preference shewn to another in this embassy; and what vexed him the more was, that however the refusal he had, his Majesty ceased not to treat him with equal familiarity and distinction.

THIS recent attachment did not cause him to break off either with Madames Portail or Mauconseil—from the latter who influenced Monsieur D'Argenson, he knew the measures that Minister projected; and thereby the time of soliciting any point for himself. Some suspicion arising, caused a coolness between them; and it is a fact well established, that possibly from this ground, D'Argenson, on most occasions, secretly opposed his views.

HE was also initiated in the mystery that caused so sudden an intimacy, between the married families

milies of Luxemburgh and Boufflers, which the respective husbands finding out, gladly for their own convenience, confirmed. Thus Monsieur de Boufflers, became the cicisbeo of Madame de Luxemburg, and vice versa the other. At the Opera, and in every public place, it appeared a common arrangement, and the sanction given, saved it from the breath of scandal. The Duke admitted to a share of these amusements did not interrupt the settled course of harmony established before, he became a participator. The Ladies accommodated themselves, with this intrusion; and Richelieu's vanity often was gratified in hearing the gentlemen expatiate on the faithful and constant attachment of their reciprocal objects. The death of Madame de Luxemburg some time after followed by that of Monsieur de Bouffler's, ending this *partie Quarree*, the remaining couple united themselves in marriage.

RICHELIEU about this time, purchased a house, which, decorating with every luxurious comfort, he made his villa, appropriating it to future retirement. It had belonged to Monsieur de la Boissiere, Treasurer of Languedoc, and was situated in the vicinity of another to the same intent, that Monsieur de la Popeliniere rented. This reason, had in part, induced the purchase.—In the
select

select parties of his friends the Duke convened, Voltaire generally was a guest; and these two friends pleased themselves in the recollection of the gaiety of diversion, that had attended their juvenile days, in the Reign of the Regent.

Monsieur de la Popelinière often repaired to his villa, which having a large garden to it, the Lady found herself inclined to walking, and the Duke, informed of those hours she dedicated to this new attachment, contrived to accompany her in her peregrinations. This intelligence was not suspected, the Financier considering he had lessened the Duke's attentions by changing his porter to one perfectly unaccommodating; who, hired on double wages, and assured of further provision, like a true Cerberus, on every occasion, denied entrance to the person marked by his Master as a dangerous or unwelcome visitor.

THE King, desirous of peace, thought to have obtained it on the death of that titular Emperor, Charles the seventh, for whose rights or claims, he had been induced to arm. But the English having lavished vast sums, in support of the Queen of Hungary, and despairing of reimbursement, sought for effectual retribution in an-

nihilating the marine of France and Spain, and preying on the commerce of those kingdoms. His Majesty was therefore obliged to arm in his turn; and however great the disasters of the preceding campaign, he found himself, on repairing to the Army in Flanders, at the head of a force more numerous, and in every respect, better appointed.

IN Germany, the operations were limited to a defensive system. The Marechal de Saxe, entrusted with the command in Flanders, after having by marches and counter marches, deceived the vigilance of the enemy, on a sudden appeared before Tournay, and commenced it's siege. The Allies stung with the mortification of being out-generalled, resolved to risque an action, for the saving of this place. His Majesty, with the Dauphin, joined the army on the eve, attended by those whose services before had been commanded; and the Duke, as first Aide de Camp to his Sovereign, burning with ardor of performing some valorous atchievement.

ON the eleventh of May, the enemies advanced in order of battle; and at six o'clock in the morning, the signal was given for the action to commence. The right of the French spread to

the Village of Antoine; their left to that of Barri, and their centre formed and occupied the plain of Fontenoy.—To detail the particulars would only be a repetition of what other historians have ably related. It is our province only to observe, that the Duke of Cumberland, commanding both English and Dutch, by the happiest scientific manœuvre, gradually advanced in a column, whose wedge was impenetrable, from the firmness and courage displayed.

WERE we to permit ourselves the liberty of remarking on the manner the attempt to break this column was made, we should be led to pronounce an opinion, that, owing to the feeble state of the Mareschal de Saxe, the faculty of mind he had, in war, so often given eminent proofs of, did not bear him through on this occasion. To this formidable column, composed of thirty thousand men he brought loose bodies of men drawn up in regiments, who signalizing themselves, without arresting the progress of the enemy, only fell to be supplanted by others, equally sacrificed. The alarm became general, the mass constantly advancing, was thought irresistible, and almost an unanimous idea prevailed, that the battle

was

was lost. Soon this conclusion pervaded in the quarters where his Majesty and his son were posted; and the Maréchal signified his wish, these august spectators would withdraw, before the order of retreat was issued.—Both these Princes opposed an intimation dictated by extreme caution for their safety, and justly judged, such a change of position, at that critical juncture, might convert a regular retreat, into a disorderly flight. Richelieu arrives at this moment, escaped from a thousand perils, that he had braved, in leading to the charge several different regiments. He boldly declares, that Fontenoy still holds out and from the survey he has taken of the field, that they are sure of gaining the victory if his advice is adopted; he points to a place, where if field pieces are brought they will act obliquely, and thus penetrate this mass; observing that the artillery opening a passage, the King's household and other troops, that have not yet been employed, will soon widen it, and force the column to a separation.—The King, struck with the confidence exhibited, gave way to his judgment; and empowered him immediately to carry his Majesty's orders, to the Maréchal, for this disposition.

THE order is obeyed, and the effect of the measure is immediate. The Allies, in possession of
victory,

victory, on a sudden, find their laurels converted into Cypresses'. The fire of the artillery is so rapid and powerful, that whole ranks are swept; and the column, hitherto impenetrable, seems to bend. At this instant, Richelieu leading the carabineers and Gens-d'armes, dashes on the entry formed, and precipitating all before them, the fortune of the field is, by a strange effect of chance, the prize of those whom a moment before deemed themselves conquered.

THE King rode over the field of battle and, with melancholy, surveyed the ravage. He drew the Dauphin's attention to contemplate on the misery derived from such success, and even how hard on the victors a conquest of this nature. Entirely wrapped in sentiment, he turns to the Duke, assuring him that the recollection of Fontenoy and his services rendered, will make a lasting impression. On this fatal day, above twenty thousand men paid, with a surrender of their breaths, the ambition of their leaders. Tournay capitulated ten days after the action, and the Monarch gave a public audience, to receive the fullsome congratulations of men, ascribing to him the glory of the event.

RICHELIEU returns to Paris to enjoy the honors that awaited him. A grateful people, apprized
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of the happy turn of his discernment on that day, bestowed their joint testimony of approbation, on him and the Marechal. He expected also other rewards, but the multiplied obstacles, from Mons. de la Popeliniere's continued jealousy, impeded his course. The Duke enquires for a house in the same street of the Financier's Hôtel. One adjoining is found empty, and directly hired in a fictitious name, is occupied by a Dame Gerard and her son, an exempt of police both placed in by the Duke. In examining the nature of the building, it is found that a joint wall of one side, formed one of the apartments together with Madame de la Popeliniere's cabinet. Instantly it is resolved to construct a chimney, to answer the purpose of introduction; and Desnoyer, a mechanic of great ability, was charged with the execution of the lucky idea suggested.

THIS Man makes choice of two masons, and under a promise of fifty Louis they engage to complete the work enjoined, under the favor of a night, with scarcely any disturbance. The plan settled, they are conveyed to the dwelling in a carriage, with their eyes blinded; and only on their being guided into the apartment, where their talent is required, are they permitted to see the light.

light. The frame of the chimney is placed on hinges, so that by turning, it serves for either house; and the work proved and finished, the workmen, are reconducted with similar precaution.

By this ingenious contrivance, all umbrage was avoided; and the Duke on the next evening met with a grateful return for the happy expedient. Stephano also partook of the pleasure it afforded, by Mademoiselle Dufour's company.

THIS woman, however not fashioned sufficient to allow liberally for the feelings, of him, whom she had once professed an attachment to, discovered in Stephano that his devotion to her was more an act of necessity, impelled on the occasion, than proceeding from natural sentiment. She communicates her suspicions to her Mistress, who imparting them to Richelieu, the latter wished to convince himself what other had obtained a preference in his servant. He found out, and doing justice to his valet's taste, proposed to supersede him; but real inclination being the basis of this partiality, and a financier already sacrificed to the Duke's servant, Mademoiselle Aimée, (the nature of the Lady in question,) found no difficulty in equally thanking the Duke for the favor intended.

RICHELIEU

RICHELIEU, however indignant in meeting one of the sex, so insensible to her interest, calmed his first emotions; and coolly [considering, perseverance might attain the point, he tried and tried again. Satisfied, his pursuit was vain, it is a blemish in his character, truth obliges us to relate, that he determined, on the ruin of both, to avenge his disappointment. In this intent, he repairs to the house of Monsieur Berryer, Lieutenant de Police, one of those Subaltern Ministers ever ready to crouch under the pleasure of the great. They agree, that both should be seized, and confined in different houses of correction. To effect this the sooner, Richelieu blushes not to feign to his servant, an indispensable absence for three or four days, dispensing with his attendances accordingly.

THE moment the Duke is gone to Versailles, as Stephano accustomed to credit his Master, implicitly gives faith to, he runs to impart to his Mistress the happy tidings. With equal rapture she promises him a supper and a night's recreation. Scarcely are they retired to enjoyment than a violent knock at the door directs entrance in the name of the King. In vain the domestic values himself on serving the Duke. The exempt is inexorable

crable, and as his orders received, conducts his prisoners to different places of confinement.

IN the first emotion of his anger, he knows not to whom to ascribe his disappointment. Perfectly acquainted with the temper of his Master in allowing no obstacles to arrest the progress of his views, he considers himself his victim, and resolves on a desperate vengeance. Agitated with these gloomy ideas, Desnoyer in five or six days presents himself, and acquaints him, he is indebted for his liberation to the Duke's interposition.

"WHENCE come you?" said the Duke, sternly, "My Lord, you must know, I make no complaint on my own account, but such a treatment to an unfortunate woman, who has only evaded your pursuit, is unworthy of your Grace's resentment."

THE Duke, exasperated in the discovery, orders him immediately to quit his service, and denounces if he has the presumption of interrupting his wishes again, he must look to being transported as a felon out of France. The poor fellow retires and secretes himself without daring to appear fifteen days at Desnoyer's. In the interim, the girl addresses the Duke, and humiliates herself in asking his Grace's pardon, for the improper reluc-

tance shewn. In vain, she implores, and not able to carry her plaint to Monsieur de Pauce, she languishes eight months destitute of every resource, and at length only owes her release to the compassion of the gaoler, who, on a supposition of the Duke having forgotten her, embraces the opportunity of his second embassy to Vienna, to procure an order to that effect. Her lover had contrived by an anonymous letter, to acquaint Monsieur de Pauce, with the place of her confinement, and the reasons that caused it. But this Treasurer, obliged to some circumspection in regard to his wife, and fearful of the Duke's great credit, thought, from these reasons, his interference, in prudence, proscribed.

STEPHANO through Desnoyer's intercession made his peace, and was again honored with his former employ of attending the Duke in his nocturnal excursions. He renewed his attention to Mademoiselle Dufour, but this latter, not thinking the absence of her rival had worked any change in her lover's inclination, from jealousy, her passion was converted into hatred, and it was the effect of the latter, that accelerated the ruin and disgrace of her Mistress.

In the early period of this attachment, the public judged Richelieu was paying court only to Madame

came de la Popelinière, as proxy to his Majesty, intending this financier's wife to supply the vacancy, occasioned by the death of Madame de Chateauroux. It was the result of a national conclusion from the opinion entertained, he had taken the latter of these Ladies, from the Duke D'Agènois, to devote her to the Monarch's attentions. Epigrams were made, conveying bitter satire on such occupation, for a man of Richelieu's rank, and caricatures were likewise exhibited. In one of these, his figure is under the emblem of a butterfly, traversing from flower to flower, till seized by a bird catcher. This man, to punish his inconstancy, clips his wings. The God of Love, feels indignant, and carries it's complaint to Jupiter. This god smiles at Cupid's anger, and to cause a cessation of complaint and reparation, bestows the wings of Mercury to be conferred on his favorite.

THE sequel, however, proved that Richelieu's assiduity was as principal and not as agent. Peaceably enjoying the fruits of his ingenuity, the public deceived in their opinion, lost sight of the object that created it, and the husband, more tranquil, afforded to the couple unremitted moments. One evening was near unveiling the mystery, that prevailed in their communications; the financier by chance was in his

wife's cabinet, when the Duke announced by a knock his intention of visiting, another was repeated, when the Lady collecting herself, spoke in a great passion, of the disturbance often made by her neighbors, and in the transport of her collected violence, declares taking up the poker, she will give knock for knock. The good husband smiles at the absurdity of his wife's revenge, and after a short interval, observing it has nevertheless operated marvellously in making them desist, he quits the apartment. The discerning reader will conclude, that the expedient of Madame de la P's. was the sign agreed on, denoting danger. Of course the most profound calm succeeding, and soon the favorable signal given, the lovers found great amusement in the deception.

THE Duke was on a great footing of intimacy with Messieurs de Beaufremont, de Bouillon, and de Contault. Desnoyer, a convenient man to all, was in the highest occupation, much favored by each, and in receipts of large sums, which they scattered profusely on their pleasures. A man of this stamp, always cherished by those of rank, and admitted in their confidence, generally tyrannizes over those in his subordinate employ. Himself rapacious, he felt indifferent to the mode of satisfying his avarice, and
taking

taking advantage of the loose conduct of those, to whose pleasures he was subservient, he devised extorting of money from them, by acting upon their fears. Anonymous letters were addressed to each, upbraiding them with serious freaks, and threatening, that in case, money was not deposited at a certain place specified, the particulars of their nocturnal vigils would be known. These Gentlemen complied, but availing themselves of their influence with the Lieutenant de Police, they resolved on having the persons seized in the act of digging it. Desnoyer, too wary not to suspect the intention, obtains exact information, and divining its operation, secures the money, making ungenerously the suspicion fall on the widow Gérard and her son, whom he did not like should participate in any degree of the money the Duke sacrificed to his diversion. Richelieu, too prompt to believe, exerts his authority, has the son taken up and confined on suspicion. In vain the unhappy mother remonstrates no proof exists to substantiate such a charge, and that her son's good conduct in life does not justify such a criminal idea attaching on him. The Duke, deceived by his confident, re-
jects

jects all assertion of his innocence, and urging the criminal Minister to enforce his order, the poor young man languishes in prison, till death releases him from such an unjust and obdurate persecution.

RICHELIEU's recent attachments never proved any obstacle to his continuing his attention to those formed in his earlier days, for many of whom he entertained the sincerest friendship. Amongst these, were Madame de la Martélière, who, in a deep decline, felt pleased, in the company and conversation of the man, whose devotion to her had contributed in the bloom of her youth, to be the object of her delight. The more rapid the consumption encreased, it is to the Duke's praise, to say, that finding his presence gave a little relief, the greater was his assiduity. Winter however, the season so unfavorable to such disorders, soon put an end to her cares.—And the Duke had the mortification of seeing her expire on the moment he was quitting Paris, to preside at an assembly of the provincial States to be held at Montpellier.

CHAP. VIII

RICHELIEU FORMS AN INTIMACY AT MONTPELLIER WITH A MADAME CAPON, THE WIFE OF A CONSUL.—HE RECEIVES THE KING'S ORDERS FOR THE PERSECUTION OF THE PROTESTANTS. WISE AND MERITORIOUS CONDUCT OBSERVED. MEMORIAL TRANSMITTED IN THEIR BEHALF TO HIS MAJESTY.

THE Duke, arrived in Languedoc, held no remembrance of the loss he had sustained. Entirely occupied with the thoughts of the severity of the orders, committed to his execution, his imagination labored to divine how to soften the rigor of their nature. Monsieur de St. Florentin, a Minister without talent, accustomed to domineer as sovereign on that branch of the Government entrusted to him, delegated

delegated powers in the name of his master, to punish, in the extreme, those Ministers preaching to the reformed. Orders to this effect had issued before the Duke's arrival, and so far from deterring those who professed that faith, from following publicly and avowing its tenets, the harshness exercised, was attended with every detriment to the wished operation. The Daughters of a Madame Clanet, taken away by force from their parent's habitation, to be placed in a Convent, that they might be instructed in the Catholic persuasion, could not, however disagreeable and unhealthy the locality of the latter proved, obtain the Minister's Mandate, even to be transferred to another convent. His imbecility, uniting with his despotism, suggested the absurd idea that it was derogatory to a public character, to recede in any shape from original instructions once sanctioned. The mother of these unfortunate young women, herself in a deep decline, from the misery attendant on the compulsion used, yet wishing to preserve life to her children, solicited and obtained a revocation from the Duke, changing their residence to a spot of greater salubrity.

THE more violent was the severity, the more general and numerous were the assemblies of the reformed. Many were arrested, exercising the functions of propagating the Gospel, and had the Minister's injunctions been obeyed, they would have met the punishment denounced of instantaneous death. They were confined to the prisons of Nismes. The Duke went there, transported with passion and affecting the most unrelenting intention, towards the prisoners, he allows himself to be at once subjected, declaring such a change proceeds, from a conviction, the result of his interrogatories; that they are more the victims to fanaticism and error, than misled from criminal design; and he secretly engages the most distinguished persons in the town and province to solicit his favorable interposition in their behalf.

CONSISTENT to the scene he is the spring of, he appears at first inflexible, even when these unhappy beings are prostrated, imploring his mercy and consideration, that faith is voluntary, he requires them to conform to the law proscribing all meetings, and admitting their pledge of honor to this effect, grants their pardon. St. Florentin, exasperated at this act of humanity, revolting against those

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principles

principles of his administration, he had adopted in regard to them, and to which he had commanded an adherence, moved his recal from the Government; but the Duke firm in his Majesty's good graces, escaped the consequence of this act of disobedience; that, in any other person, and without being so distinguished a favorite, the King's bigotry would not have endured.

In the midst of these avocations, the Duke's attention was attracted by a Madame Capon, an elegant woman, wife to a Consul. The husband, honored with the Governor's notice, was indifferent to the cause that occasioned it; and the lady equally gratified in her ambition soon received the Duke on a footing, that made it manifest to the world who was the object of his *petits soupers*?—a daughter was born soon after this connection, and the Duke out of respect to the mother's memory, settled, on her marriage with one Rouffe, a Commis at Bourdeaux, a contract of one hundred thousand livres, payable at his death. Those less generous, in judging the Duke's principles, ascribed this donation to a more lively interest in the person's welfare. Thus far is certain, that she was the last lady whom he favored with his particular attention.

A FANATIC Priest, intent on the destruction of the Protestants, felt deep concern in the tolerating measures of the Duke. Wishing to appear a martyr to religion, he stabbed himself in places in his body, where the less danger from wounds was probable, and had it loudly published, that he had been set upon by a party of the reformed, desirous of exterminating the Catholics. The reverend Fathers of the Church exclaimed, and demanded vengeance. All united in the wish of extirpating the religion of the reformed, no matter at what price; and these sacred Prelates, vested in their functions to preach and inculcate the peace of God, were not averse in satisfying their intolerant spirit, by recommending the spilling of the blood of their fellow-creatures, thereby as deriving from his essence, dishonoring their Supreme Master, in affording the idea of his being equally bent on persecution as themselves. The complaint made by this priest was the cause of many unfortunate persons being seized, that had no idea of having offended against the laws. The most severe process was instituted, and the greatest wish in the clergy prevailed, to find those, tried, culpable. Such as death removed, escaped the dreadful alternative of rigorous long con-

finement. By a lucky incident the ravage made was soon stopped in it's course. The Priest, deeming his conduct meritorious, full of the idea of sacrificing heretics to the true religion, imparted the pretext devised to a friend, whose indignation, raised at the recital, communicated it to a third person, and thence gradually spreading, a general murmur ensued. The Clergy were alarmed, and compelling the member of their body to a precipitate flight, they evaded the enquiry that would have resulted. And priding themselves on the subsequent fact not having been substantiated by evidence, they maintained their belief, assuming a merit in consenting tacitly to a release of those unhappy beings who had been arrested in consequence of their pursuit, and unwarrantably thrown into prison.

IN the beginning the spirit of toleration, introduced by the pacific turn of the military Governor of the province, perfectly indifferent in himself as to what constituted the religious principles of others, had calmed that effervescence that reigned and distracted the attention of the generality ; but this latter incident, aggravated by the persecuting disposition of the clergy, had caused it to renovate. Bernage, the civil administrator, earnest to merit the favor of St. Florentin,

Florentin, the Minister, blushed not to join in every pretext to prosecute individuals ; and in one day issued orders for the apprehension of many respectable citizens, accused at his tribunal, for having connived in the importation of many books of writing, inculcating a justification of the reformed. A number of those were found with forged addresses to those obnoxious and destined victims of the evil that pervaded. They were announced to have been discovered by a miraculous circumstance on the landing place at Cette ; The person escaping into a sloop that waited for him in the offing, after having in vain attempted to bury them in the sand.

SUCH enormities, excited the clamor of many, and the Duke sensible of the enthusiasm of those affected by the adoption of proceedings of this nature against them, dreaded a renewal of those dismal scenes that dishonored France in the former reign ; where from a difference of persuasion, brothers were seen massacring each other, in cold blood.

He had already made known his sentiments to the ministers, and the clergy residing in his government, could not be mistaken, how strongly he abhorred any violence being used. As the last step to acquit himself as a zealous servant to that crown he served,

served, and in conformity to genuine inclination, he had a memorial drawn up in their favor, and pathetically calling on his Majesty, to avert their unjust sufferings, it had, notwithstanding the Prelate's opposition, the effect desired. The Monarch issued his mandate to cease all further prosecution, and of the acts of his administration, it was probably the strongest one, wherein he had to resist powerful solicitation. The representation reflects great honor on Richelieu. It is a proof of his system of moderation and humanity. On other occasions it would have given us pleasure it had equally operated; but justice to the truth of his history, has adduced instances wherein those virtues, in personal acts, were far from conspicuous. As an interesting document it claims the attention of the discerning reader, and as such, we annex a translate.

“ THE remoteness of the province of Langue-
 “ doc, from the seat of government, it's peculiar
 “ form of administration, equally with it's position
 “ relative to the Cevennes and other countries adja-
 “ cent, have surely been misrepresented, or not
 “ thoroughly commanded that notice it was deser-
 “ ving of. In such a conclusion, must be ascribed,
 “ the indifference hitherto shewn, to obviate those
 “ cruel

“ cruel evils, which seem impending. In former
 “ reigns, and at various periods, such have been hea-
 “ vily felt; and they have been more grievous,
 “ from the Genii of the people, whose vivacity
 “ prompting them to embrace errors of doctrine,
 “ without weighing it's orthodoxy, have not easily
 “ yielded to the impressions of conviction, by retract-
 “ ing, from that hastiness of opinion, a national
 “ quick habit had plunged them into without reflec-
 “ tion.

“ His late Majesty, by the revocation of the e-
 “ dict of Nantes, which had given a legal sanction to
 “ the sect of Calvinists, announced his resolution of
 “ admitting no longer, any but those of the catho-
 “ lic faith, to be peaceable inhabitants of his domini-
 “ ons. It was found (contrary to the opinion that
 “ had prevailed) too many on this occasion, emigra-
 “ ted; * and as it was justly conceived that many of
 “ those denominated (newly converted) were drag-
 “ ged with others, more obstinate, by the force of
 “ example and irresolution, rather than the dictates
 “ of principle, it was thought proper to denounce

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* It must be remarked, it is a courtier who suggests his advice to the Monarch, successor of him, who did the mischief, and who thought to repair it, by an edict still more severe.

“ a penalty, corresponding to the internal wish, they
 “ cherished, of being detained, by diverting their
 “ families from the pain of incurring it. To this in-
 “ tent, the order, directing all such of this descripti-
 “ on, attempting to remove out of the kingdom, to
 “ be stopped on the frontiers, condemned to the
 “ galleys, their wives shaved, and their habitations
 “ razed, was a wise and successful precaution.

“ In the alternative, those that remained,
 “ were re-admitted into the bosom of the true faith;
 “ were at liberty to marry, and likely to be blessed
 “ with legitimate issue. The expedient was vio-
 “ lent, yet justifiable from political necessity, and
 “ adapted to the concealed inclinations of several.
 “ Of course, it has continued in its effect, pro-
 “ scription never having been altered and allevia-
 “ ted. The prosperous issue that attended the
 “ war of 1688, and the immediate check the
 “ Protestants suffered, gave them neither time for
 “ recollection, or interval to create disturbance.
 “ The peace that occurred in 1697, was equal-
 “ ly unfavorable to their views, in seizing a
 “ moment, of re-asserting their rights, when Go-
 “ vernment might have been engaged in foreign
 “ contest.

“ THE war of 1700, not promising so propitious an end to the nation, they, three years after it's commencement, manifested a determination to exercise the profession of their religion more openly, and with less restraint. It is unnecessary to enter into a detail of what passed on the occasion. The assembling of an army in Languedoc was deemed requisite, and the command was given to Maréchal de Villars. That officer, in the plains of Nages, acquitted himself of the duty he was sent upon; fifteen thousand Languedocian Calvinists, having fallen a sacrifice to their faith. Nevertheless, the King, by no means elated with this victory, but on the contrary depressed with the loss of so many subjects blind in their zeal, preferred treating with them, and to a peace gave up the thought of any more such conquests.

“ THE Protestants humbled, dejected, were however not annihilated. At this moment, above one hundred and sixty thousand are in the province, and this number in a country not of vast extent, in which mountains and passes are found of the most impenetrable access.

“ SINCE the Epoch mentioned, nothing has

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“ been

“ been attempted by them, that can lead to seri-
 “ ous apprehensions.—It is true, a part of the
 “ most zealous had assembled occasionally in the
 “ recesses of forests and caverns, to dedicate
 “ their solemnities to the Deity; and these, it has
 “ been found as impossible to impede altogether,
 “ as the result was insignificant. They were never
 “ numerous, and only gradually attended; few
 “ marriages occurred, and they preserved the de-
 “ cency of having baptism administered to their
 “ Children in the Churches.

“ OF the proofs they were subject to, be-
 “ fore admission into these meetings, to guard a-
 “ gainst the effect of treachery, by introduction of
 “ suspicious persons, we have so ample a relation,
 “ that it must have deterred many from joining in
 “ such rites, however pure their principles might
 “ have been.

“ IN the assembly of the States, a warm dis-
 “ cussion ensued, whether from the rigor of the
 “ Bishops, in enforcing every Catholic Tenet, the
 “ adherence and avowal had not insensibly tended
 “ to the encrease of the reformed? and similarly,
 “ if the same effect had not been produced, from
 “ the Curates no longer baptising Children Protec-

“ tants,

“ tants, but as spurious issue ? or, whether that to-
 “ leration, which necessity has imposed, from im-
 “ prudence or impossibility of extirpating this sect,
 “ in the last war, has not contributed to multiply
 “ them to a number, that, if hostilely inclined,
 “ might render them an object of commotion to
 “ be dreaded ; and without the practicability of
 “ effecting their submission, but by the aid of an
 “ extensive efficient force.

“ I SHALL not myself obtrude my opinion on
 “ this question to your Majesty ; but I shall beg
 “ you to reflect, that since I have been honored
 “ with this Government, unceasingly and invaria-
 “ bly have I represented the necessity of alleviating
 “ evils, which I am persuaded time only will cause
 “ to encrease in a ten fold proportion.

“ IT is now eight years since, these representa-
 “ tions were laid at the foot of the Throne, and the
 “ attention of your ministers was earnestly com-
 “ manded to remedy their consequences, by fixing
 “ and establishing a system, divested of such terri-
 “ fic operation, for your Majesty’s approval.
 “ How often have I reiterated them ? Your Ma-
 “ jesty must allow me to say, that if such system
 “ had been proposed, it’s efficacy would have been
 “ immediate, in averting the ill, which the want of
 “ it

“ it has occasioned, and secured you in future a-
 “ gainst such depredation.

“ IT must be admitted, that this system is
 “ fraught with great difficulty, arising from that
 “ delicacy due to the prelates of the true religion,
 “ in according to the obstacles which they enter-
 “ tain, relative to the intermarriage of protestants
 “ and Catholics, with the policy dictated by civil
 “ law essential to the good of the state, in propa-
 “ gating it's subjects. These difficulties have ne-
 “ ver been endeavored to be reconciled ; time has
 “ elapsed ; the assemblies have become more fre-
 “ quented ; the zeal of religion borders on Fana-
 “ ticism ; and probably the generality have made
 “ themselves culpable. It is easy, thence to con-
 “ ceive, that any innovation, however moderate,
 “ would not be carried into effect, without having
 “ a certain power to enforce it's edicts ; and were
 “ such terror to operate, and troops directed to
 “ act, victims and martyrs would fall without
 “ number. Two years have passed, in which it
 “ has been clearly demonstrated, that detached pro-
 “ cesses, without fixed principle, originating on solid
 “ system, has only aggravated the evil. Two Mi-
 “ nisters, in the exercise of their functions, were

“ taken,

“ taken, and agreeable to ancient ordinance, one of
 “ them was hanged as an example. In other in-
 “ stances, where assemblies were detached, and
 “ the Ministers, in time, evaded by the caution of
 “ the congregation, being discovered, troops have
 “ fired on this multitude, and butchered a part of
 “ them. Such conduct was the instant signal for
 “ retaliation; forty innocent Curates were sacrific-
 “ ed to reformed vengeance; and so secret was the
 “ intention, that of the perpetrators of this sacrilegi-
 “ ous murder, only three of the criminals have been
 “ arrested, one of whom escaping, pervades the
 “ Province in open defiance.

“ THIS event justly spread terror throughout
 “ the Country. The Curates dispersed in those
 “ parishes, dreading the unrelenting furor of the
 “ protestants, quitted the locality of their Missions,
 “ to seek for protection, to their sacred functions,
 “ in those Towns, occupied by the military, where
 “ the influence of the latter predominating, would
 “ ensure peaceable enjoyment of their devout avo-
 “ cations.—In such, mostly inhabited by Catholics,
 “ no impediment arose, whilst the poor in the
 “ country were, from their absence, left destitute,
 “ in regard to the care of their salvation.

“ SUCH

“ SUCH was the state of Languedoc, when I ar-
 “ rived to take charge of the Government. A feint,
 “ of causing some troops to move, and the well con-
 “ trived application of a few threats, appeased this
 “ irritation. I spoke to those, whom I considered
 “ capable of discrimination, and equally of capacity,
 “ to convey it to others. I punished, where I thought
 “ it might be enforced without danger, mitigating
 “ the punishment denounced by the rigor of the
 “ Law, and apportioning it to the nature of the
 “ crime. More could not have been expected, nei-
 “ ther had more been required. Could the situation,
 “ in which I found my Government, admit of great-
 “ er exertion ? since the force was inadequate to the
 “ number inculpated. On my last excursion to
 “ Paris, in January of this year, I expatiated
 “ strongly, how requisite this point was to engage
 “ the Minister’s serious and unremitted attention.
 “ I furnished particular documents to your Ma-
 “ jesty, explanatory of the urgent motives prevail-
 “ ing. Your Majesty was pleased to give them a
 “ benignant consideration, and invested me with
 “ the authority of meeting the Ministers in an
 “ assembly to be held, for the purpose, at the
 “ Chancellor’s. I must do this assembly the justice
 “ to

“ to remark, that the arguments used appeared to
 “ them to merit every endeavor, to obviate, by
 “ the introduction of a deliberate system, tending,
 “ to quiet minds agitated by religious controver-
 “ sy, the dreadful alternative of plunging, by a
 “ denial of such remedy, into a despair actuated by
 “ fury, and a subversion of all hope. Probably
 “ therefore, the assembly from this conclusion, al-
 “ most unanimous, would, e’er they broke up, have
 “ come to some stated propositions, whence some
 “ specific system would have been deduced; had
 “ it not on a sudden occurred, the expediency of the
 “ bishops being convened, as the clause, relative
 “ to the marriages, was the strongest in opposition
 “ from that body.

BEFORE the assembly seperated, it was agreed
 “ from this suggestion, that they should be written
 “ to and their advice taken; and as the imbecility
 “ of having recourse to rigorous acts had been
 “ evinced, from the event of the late commotions,
 “ without a force, adequate to the purpose, and
 “ acting on a mature and well reduced system, it
 “ was resolved to suspend, for the present, every
 “ interference. Nothing could be more reasona-
 “ ble or just, provided the system, deemed not

“ less

“ less requisite, had quickly succeeded the resolution. Unfortunately, in being postponed, it appears totally to have been forgotten, and inaction has continued.* Hence impunity has added to audacity. The most numerous bodies have assembled

* From this instance may be inferred, how difficult it was to succeed in any act, however manifest for the public good, if not countenanced by Ministers, ever arbiters of the Sovereign will. The Governor of a Province, and a favorite of the King's, is ten years, before he can compass, by reiterated remonstrances, some favorable treatment to be substituted towards a class of respectable Citizens, disgusted and inured to constant hardship. His memorials are yet constantly addressed to the Monarch, and as often attract his benevolent intention to relieve; but he still remains a slave to habitual indolence, and it's natural concomitant.

Insensible without participating in the distresses of his subjects, he refers their eventual consideration to Ministers, and troubles himself not in enquiring about their decision. How incumbent is it on a Sovereign to act and direct from his own judgment? Lewis XV. was fully capable, and his judgment was awake to the sufferings represented. Still the evil existed, from the aversion his Ministers had to interpose, where the Clergy shewed not only a disinclination to alleviate, but on the contrary, the utmost unchristian and unfeeling rancor to persecute, by compelling the Laws, absurdly enacted to be as absurdly executed. Already had the evil augmented to an alarming degree, and without the Duke's moderation and discretion, a civil War in the Province would have been the consequence. What could a simple individual hope in the object of reform, when a man of Richelieu's rank, acting in so exalted a situation, found his efforts baffled? Unhappy Nation! thou wert long time a victim! and in thy blind deference to thy Monarchs, thou prostituted on them appellations of eulogium, which their actions merited not.

“ fembled without refcrve; Marriages, baptifms,
 “ and every rite of the proteftant religion have been
 “ exercifed, with a total contempt of all caution,
 “ and in open defiance of the law.

“ Such turbulence in the State has juftly a-
 “ larmed your Minifters, who plead, that in now
 “ determining on a new plan of conduct, and fup-
 “ porting their decrees with a fuitable power, they
 “ had never loft view of what had been incessant-
 “ ly urged to their obfervation. Monsieur D’Ar-
 “ genfon fuggested the propriety of a quick and
 “ clear determination. This gave rife to another
 “ counfel. It was held at the Chancellor’s on the
 “ 16th of July. I attended; and uniformly main-
 “ taining the fame pofition, I brought a majority
 “ to my opinion, and the fequel was, that a ref-
 “ pectable force fhould be employed. But I could
 “ not caufe them to fix the plan, nor to point out
 “ the principles on which thefe troops were to act.
 “ The confideration thereof was deferred to ano-
 “ ther meeting; and however I objected to the
 “ number being ftill inadequate, if rigorous Coer-
 “ cion was judged advifable, yet I could not carry
 “ the adoption, for more than two and thirty In-
 “ fantry battalions with three regiments of Dra-
 “ goons, the original number appointed.

“ Your Ministers can alone judge, whether
 “ destining any greater number for this particular
 “ service, can, by weakening any other part of
 “ your Majesty’s dominions, influence, in any de-
 “ gree, the safety of the frontiers, in regard to foreign
 “ states. But all those, interested in your glory and
 “ honor, must see in a stronger light than indifferent
 “ and silent spectators, how much both are compre-
 “ hended in guarding against the possibility of such
 “ troops not acting, without effectually completing
 “ their object. A risk of this nature, Sire, is incur-
 “ red, if these troops come to their destination,
 “ without a plan of operations, and a settled and a-
 “ vowed principle ; what would follow must be ea-
 “ sily imagined. A province in total confusion, and
 “ every resource suspended, drawn as this is from its
 “ manufactures, every workman of which is to a
 “ man a protestant. In either case, such a conse-
 “ quence must result, if arrangements are not prefix-
 “ ed; or if those, determined upon, are ill adapted to
 “ the expediency requisite ; but I think, that time,
 “ united with precaution, might cause a change in
 “ the impression of men’s minds, and, effecting a
 “ calm in present matters, would lead by degrees to
 “ the position to which they ought to revert. On the
 “ nature

“ nature therefore of the means to be adopted, and
 “ on resolving upon these without delay, depends the
 “ wisdom and success of a measure arresting at the
 “ present moment the attention of Europe.

“ THE point to be attained is to lead a deluded
 “ people back to that allegiance they have forfeited,
 “ from a mistaken religious zeal, bordering on fana-
 “ ticism.

“ IT is therefore the sense we must combat,
 “ and in what depends on the mind, force general-
 “ ly operates the reverse of the intention. Concili-
 “ atory measures are requisite. To effect these, gen-
 “ tle innovations, favoring their persuasion, and con-
 “ sistent with humanity and reason, should be sub-
 “ stituted, for those harsh and unwise rules, under
 “ which they now labor. This would ensure their
 “ future obedience, without any danger of their
 “ minds again being revolted.

“ How impolitical to reduce men desirous of
 “ abandoning every thing to the freedom of religi-
 “ ous enjoyment, to the dreadful alternative of the
 “ Gallies, and to a profession of faith excited by
 “ compulsion, in case they are caught in the act of
 “ evasion.”

“ WERE his Majesty to pronounce, he would
 “ suffer

“ suffer none but catholics to inhabit his kingdom;
 “ than which nothing could be more just, and that
 “ he freely allowed all those of a different principle
 “ to depart, I believe, few would be found, who
 “ would, on this account, expatriate themselves? In
 “ all countries, it is the rage of persecution, that has
 “ militated against the hope of converts. Men de-
 “ rive, from their firmness, ideal merit, and feel a
 “ pride in mankind considering them as martyrs to
 “ principle. Moreover there exists that attachment
 “ to locality, which, without great cause, would se-
 “ cure their residence; and in a few years, scarcely
 “ one emigrant would be known, if their marriages
 “ were facilitated, and to a prohibition of all exterior
 “ form of devotion, either in assemblies or places
 “ marked for such consecration, an express injunc-
 “ tion otherwise not to molest was to issue. A
 “ procedure of this nature would be pleasing, and
 “ satisfy those of the first class, and by their exam-
 “ ples and discourse the common people would
 “ be reconciled to private unmolested worship.

“ MILDNESS and persuasion are the only in-
 “ centives to the mind. Violence revolts and is
 “ ever ineffectual. Powerful measures aided by
 “ reason will always succeed; whilst the one with-
 “ out the other constantly will fail.

“ MANKIND

" MANKIND are influenced by those, who
 " from superior ability, exercise the empire, which
 " such talents give them ; and these will be best
 " able to discriminate, what is most appropriate
 " to the religion and interest of those, for whose
 " benefit they are left at full liberty to act. How
 " many are there whose stake is very considerable?
 " the hazard they run must make a serious impres-
 " sion. If such men are gained by gentle conces-
 " sion, there is nothing to be feared from the mul-
 " titude, guided by their example. On the con-
 " trary, if rigidity alone is to prevail, no hope can
 " be entertained ; and the better sort, forming a
 " junction with the lower class, will raise a body
 " that may become formidable in its opposition."

" If the people continue to assemble, with-
 " out their assemblies being frequented by those,
 " whom an habit of confidence has accustomed
 " them to, where can be the dread, that such a
 " mass, without leaders, and in time of peace parti-
 " cularly, can in the least affect the state ? but if
 " the whole of the protestants are to a man disgust-
 " ed and indignant with the spirit of persecution
 " pervading the government, there is great reason
 " to apprehend the effect of their general despair."

" A con-

“ A CONVICTION must thence arise, that if
 “ the sending of troops into the province is not
 “ accompanied, or premised by a system of con-
 “ duct, carrying wisdom, moderation, and regula-
 “ rity of a compact principle in it's execution ;
 “ such an exhibition inspiring terror, will produce
 “ dreadful consequences ; whereas, if on the contra-
 “ ry, those points recommended are attended to,
 “ the reverse must be the certain expectation.

WITHOUT the necessity of our comment on
 this memorial—it is easy to discern that the acts
 of government sanctioned as just, from being is-
 sued in the name of the Monarch relative to
 these unhappy people, were rigorous and cruel.
 The Church influenced the council ;—and that
 former body, ever repugnant to toleration, sought
 to perpetuate the exercise of it's dominion by a
 system of terror alone. In consequence, Lettres
 de Cachet were the weapons used against indi-
 viduals of a certain description, whilst to influ-
 ence the consciences of others assembled in bo-
 dies to profess divine worship, troops were com-
 manded to chastize and effect their dispersion.

CHAP. VIII. IX.

MONSIEUR DE LA POPELINIERE DISCOVERS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHIMNEY, AND PENETRATES INTO THE MOTIVES. — SEPARATION FROM HIS WIFE ENSUES, — THE DUKE NAMED TO COMMAND THE BODY OF TROOPS APPOINTED FOR AN INCURSION INTO ENGLAND, — DEATH OF THE DAUPHINESS — RICHELIEU DEPUTED AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY TO VIENNA, ON ACCOUNT OF THE DAUPHIN'S SECOND MARRIAGE.

WHILST the Duke, was occupied in the means of pacifying the Province in which he governed, matters of serious import arose to trouble the domestic felicity of Madame de la P. — This Lady was imprudent enough to send away Mademoiselle Dufour, without engaging her silence; the latter meditated

meditated revenge, and Stephano was not on the spot to appease, or divert it's effect. Left to act, as she chose, she gives loose to her resentment, and going to the Financier, communicates the mystery of the chimney. Addicted to jealousy, she found it no obstacle to persuade, altho' the relation, without practical experiment, appeared improbable.—The Financier takes his wife to the Play, and feigning the necessity of a short absence, returns quickly to the room wherein Dufour awaited his coming. The proof afforded, every injurious expression is bestowed, and at view of some letters, that he is favored equally with the perusal of, his indignation loses all restraint. Determined to part with his wife, he rewards liberally the discoverer of her infidelity, and without going back to fetch his wife home, prepares to have an interview solely with her, forbidding the entrance to all those, with whose company his house was usually honored at supper.—Madame de la P. affected with the recent representation of the Cid, enters her house, little suspecting the personal moving scene that she is to partake of. The husband, furious, loads her with abuse, and upbraiding her ingratitude declares his fixed intention of no longer living with her. The
 unhappy

unhappy wife endeavors to excuse herself, but faint are her excuses, and all idea of urging compassion on this score ceases, on a sight of the Duke's letters in which the mystery of the Chimney is recounted. From giving vent to his indignation, the Financier is diverted by a noise at his door. It is the servants of the Maréchal de Saxe, obeying the orders of their Master in struggling with the Porter, that his carriage may enter. Monsieur de la P. recognizing the Maréchal's voice descends out of respect and apologizes, pretending that sudden and unforeseen business disappoints him of the pleasure of receiving his company this night. The Maréchal observing his agitation, is so particular in his enquiry, that he commands the other's confidence. In a dismal and plaintive voice he relates his misfortune, which so far from exciting sensibility, occasions a remonstrance against the impropriety of giving currency to a circumstance that can only make him ridiculous; and that, if stifled, will continue him the favor and notice of people of fashion, resorting to his house for the pleasure of his wife's company and the liberality of his entertainments. Take my advice, says the Maréchal, and suppress thy resentment: it has gone abroad that a chimney has served to the happiness

of the parties. If so, have it stopped up; regard it only as a common incident in life, and at any rate reflect it is an event that many an honest fellow is doomed to. In it's celebrity is the disgrace,—admit it with patience, and suffer it with indifference, or thou wilt expose thyself to scorn, derision, and the sorrow of being hooted at. Richelieu is in luck. I wish the preference had fallen on me, or that I may enjoy the good fortune of supplanting him.—The deference due to the Marèchal, occasioned La Popeliniere to listen with respectful attention, though he was no wiser from his precepts: his passion exceeding his prudence, he clamoured so loud, and so generally, that etiquette compelled a seperation. The lady withdrew on a very slender allowance; and Richelieu quite vexed with the imbecility of conduct and meanness in the husband, added for the wife's comfort, an annual stipend of twelve hundred Livres.

It was nearly at this period, that the rage prevailed of effecting a disembarkation of troops into England; a project as often meditated as the execution was delayed:—The motive of such an expedition was the wish of re-establishing on the throne of his ancestors, the Grandson of James II. The

Duke

Duke was named for the command, but the preparations were so retarded, and so inadequate to what supplies he deemed requisite, that the undertaking was postponed to another campaign. He waited for some time at Boulogne, in a state of inactivity; whilst the English were vigilant in their observations at that port, and overawing every attempt to get out, by mastering the sea with a superior fleet. The Pretender deprived of the succour he had been promised, by this diversion in favor of his interests in England, was beat in Scotland, with difficulty effected his escape, and relanding in France repaired to Paris; whence, to the disgrace of the nation, in conformity to the Treaty of Peace, he was by a clause thereof, exempted from the asylum France had granted to his unfortunate Family; and opposing it's decree, he was by order of the Monarch arrested, as he was coming out of the Opera House, and compelled to retire to Rome, where his brother the Duke of York had just been advanced to the Cardinalate.—In the course of mourning for a young Princess, who had been recently born, the nation was convulsed with the shock of the premature death of it's mother the Dauphiness.—All France bewailed this loss. Every good quality approaching to perfection, was attributed to this object when deceased;

ceased; however impossible either the Court or the people could have discerned, in so short a time, the capacity of such a character, with any precision. The Dauphin appeared inconsolable, and his feelings, if acute, were insulted, by the resolution he should sacrifice his peace of mind, to the glory of the nation, in wishing another connection being formed to yield legitimate issue.

A PRINCESS of Saxe, daughter of Augustus, King of Poland, was the destined object. Policy had dictated a change of maxim, and no impropriety was considered in the reigning Queen having, for a daughter in law, the issue of that Monarch, who had ejected her father from his throne.—Alliances of Monarchs are not restricted by such ties. The Ministry, in affecting to view the scale of the interest of the nation, regard, as feeble and trifling, every obstacle, however directly personal. The matter was determined upon, and this Princess' hand was to be solicited by the delegation of an Ambassador Extraordinary.

It has been remarked that Richelieu was subjected to the mortification of seeing another Ambassador preferred, for the mission to Spain, after he had solicited and been promised the employment. His Majesty, in naming him to this, designed it in compensation

compensation for his former disappointment. The Duke was at Montpellier. The Monarch announced it in a letter, graciously written by his own hand, recommending it's being a secret, until the moment for making the intention public occurred. Richelieu, in thanking the King, assumed the liberty of suggesting some points as preliminaries. The particulars are as follow, and the answers denote the mind and footing the Favorite was on with the Monarch.

It is expedient, in order the King's service may not be delayed, that the Duke should exactly know the time fixed for his departure.

A secret of this nature cannot be retained for the workmen charged with the preparation of the equipages, &c. &c. will naturally guess the cause.

It cannot yet be known as at Warsaw, it is impossible for them to divine, what has yet not been announced.

The mode to obviate this difficulty, is by postponing the ordering of them. Indeed, to issue the order at present would only shew too great an anxiety, which considering the honor conferred, would be out of place.

It

Is it resolved that the Duke of Richelieu should appear in mourning at Dresden?

In mourning no doubt at least, until the day of audience. I am not however certain whether he can consistent with the etiquette quit it for that day even.

Good bargains are ensured with ready money, and mechanics advance in their work in proportion to the money paid them in hand. The Duke de Richelieu, who is not blessed with any profusion of this metal, supplicates his Majesty to give orders he may not want this requisite supply.

Monsieur de Richelieu may expect a due regard will be had to his credit; and that an order on the Treasury will issue incessantly.

THE Duke de Richelieu came to Paris, to hasten the preparations necessary, and at the same time to console Madame de la P. who moaned in silence his absence. The pleasure of seeing him again dispelled the remembrance of what she had sacrificed on his account. Fortune, situation, and reputation

reputation were trifles in her mind, compared to the pleasure of being beloved and having near her the object of her adoration. Ignorant of the inconstancy of her lover, she seemed to live only for him, and her passion abated alone when she discovered his proneness to variety. Too fond to punish herself by abandoning the man accustomed to constant pardon, from those leagued in attachment to him, she excuses his infidelity; and Richelieu detesting to be excelled in generosity, equally looked over (continuing to her death her pension) a propensity, which she manifested to a young Abbé. This latter inclination was not of long duration, the lady falling an early victim to a mortal disease, a cancer in her breast.

THE Ambassador set out for Dresden in the month of Dec. 1746. Habituated to magnificence, his suite was brilliant; 12 gentlemen in attendance, amongst whom was numbered the unfortunate Count de Lally, since beheaded, 84 Pages, 12 Heydukes, six Couriers and livery Servants, displayed a splendid train. He had likewise ordered from Montpellier, his Plate; but the King of Poland, equally great, both honored, by the selection of the man, and superlatively sensible of the dignity of his mission, insisted on

lodging

lodging and defraying every expence during his sojournment. This lasted only one month, in which every day was a day of festival, and rendered particularly happy by the partiality shewn him by Madame de Mounfinskà, a Princess of Poland, and Chamberlain to the Queen. Richelieu ever intent on the enjoyment of life, soon discerned this Lady's peculiar merit; and his vanity, gratified in eclipsing at fifty years of age, the brilliant youths of his Polish Majesty's Court, in this Lady's esteem, embraced every opportunity of manifesting his gratitude.

THE Duke, delighting in grandeur, solicited, in behalf of the Prince he represented, the honor of entertaining His Majesty and the nobility of his Court. It was readily admitted, and no entertainment could be more superb. The Poles of consequence, excelling subjects of other nations in profusion, as well as fortune, were in this instance compelled to acknowledge, they were outdone in expence, and taste. Richelieu's ostentation, when he indulged in it's pleasure, was susceptible of no bounds, and on this occasion he surpassed himself; ordering every article that had been exhibited, to be bestowed indiscriminately on the public,

AND yet a judgment may be formed of the fastidiousness of man, when, in honor of his Prince, he scrupled not to a sacrifice of his Plate, and every other ornament that he had furnished from his own private means; whilst he had the injustice to deny payment to his common servants, by the reimbursing the cost of the habit de Gala, in which he had commanded their appearance on that day, referring them to the presents they received, as in the suite of an embassy, to compensate for this extra charge.

ON his departure the King of Poland presented him with most elegant sets of Dresden porcelain, estimated at full two hundred thousand Livres. A pleasant letter from his Christian Majesty, on the subject of his embassy, the reader is referred for the perusal of, at the end of this volume.

RETURNED to Paris, and ever secure in the most favored reception from the amiable part of the sex, he determined nevertheless to accompany the King, in a third Campaign. Ambitious for the glory of his Sovereign, he was ever foremost in tracing for him the path of honor; and no consideration on earth could have tempted him to omit the distinction his good fortune promised to add to

his fame, in signalizing himself in new exploits, in
presence of the Monarch.

CHAP. IX.

*RICHIEU DISTINGUISHES HIMSELF AT THE BATTLE OF
LAUFELDT,—THE GENOESE REQUIRE HIS PRESENCE TO
REPLACE THE DUKE DE BOUFFLERS,—CAMPAIGN OF GE-
NOA,—ATTACHMENT OF THE DUKE'S WITH PELINETTA
BRIGNOLET, SISTER IN LAW OF THE DOGE'S.*

THE military renown of the Mareschal de Saxe, increased by successive victories which he had obtained, caused the Nation to augur favorably for the result of the approaching Campaign. The battle of Laufeldt, less bloody and less disputed than those either of Fontenoy or Raucoux, left in the
decision

decision of the field, an opening for the siege of Bergen-op-zoom; which was resolved on, and immediately under the eyes of the Monarch commenced. The King learnt at the same period, that the Duke of Boufflers had delivered Genoa from the Austrian yoke, and on the day of his triumph had fallen a victim to the ravage of the small pox. The same accounts brought an entreaty from that Republic for the Duke de Richelieu, to supply the loss of the deceased.

It is an event well known in history that in the beginning of 1746, the Austrians had subjugated this Republic; and treated the inhabitants more as slaves, than as men fallen under the dominion of another power by the common chance of war. Such an excess of injustice soon effected their independence. A trifling circumstance occasions an insurrection, which becoming general, the people exasperated, act in such force as to subdue in their turn their conquerors, and emancipate themselves from the heavy chains, they had borne with indignation, to which they dared not before manifest a reluctance. But the enemy rallying, threaten severe vengeance, and the inhabitants scarcely breathing the sweets of liberty again, when they call in to the aid of their
determined

determined measure, the French; and the Duke of Boufflers commanding them had hitherto impeded the successful return of the Austrians.

THE King apprized of the Duke of Bouffler's death intimates to his favorite, that his wishes according with the Genoese in a choice of the successor, he must repair to that city without delay.

THE Duke, accompanied by Messrs. D'Agènois, deCrussol, deChauvelin, sets out for Nice, where the Infanta, Don Philip headed the troops of Spain, as well as the Marèchal de Bellisle those of France. He embarks at Monaco, with the said officers, a valet de chambre and two servants, and indifferent to the inconveniency of not awaiting for his equipages, he braves the danger of the seas in tempestuous weather, and that of the English fleet, stationed in the hope of intercepting him. Aided by a boisterous dark night and a quick sailing vessel, he boldly ran through them, receiving several discharges which the alarm of a foreign vessel occasioned, and arrives safely in harbor. The Senate depute Galdo, one of their Members, to compliment and attend him to the palace Doria, selected for his residence; and the young nobility formed into companies of volunteers, dispute the honor of composing the French General's Guard.

ON the next day of his arrival, the troops were drawn out at St. Peter Dàréna, where the Duke reviewed them; a marked solicitude prevailing to serve under him. He thence attended the Senate, several of the members coming out to meet him, and in their hall, seated next to the Doge, he addressed to them the following discourse:

“ It is well known that reciprocal interests and
 “ treaties of mutual welfare have established and tend
 “ to cement the union between your Serene Highness
 “ the illustrious State of Genoa, and the King my
 “ master. Had he already not been in alliance
 “ with your splendid Republic, the misfortune,
 “ averted only by the heroism of its defenders,
 “ would have alone prompted the King to a decided
 “ part in it's succour.

“ Be persuaded that he will never abandon
 “ you, and for the purpose of convincing Europe,
 “ that your interests and his are inseperable; he
 “ has selected me to make known to you, and to
 “ proclaim to the world, he will defend and main-
 “ tain that liberty your courage has inspired you
 “ with the manliness to assert, and which your resolu-
 “ tion has nobly effected.

“ NEVER

" NEVER were my my sovereign's orders so
 " pleasing, as those which I feel on this occasion.
 " They confer on me the honor of ranking a-
 " mongst your Patriots, whose dangers and glo-
 " ry I shall eagerly emulate. Indeed the road of
 " dispersing and subduing your enemies, lays only
 " in the imitation of the glorious feats you have,
 " already in the defence of your country, achiev-
 " ed.

" YOUR Counsels will be the surest guide to
 " my judgment, and the hope of distinction, I en-
 " tertain, in manifesting my zeal, will justify, I trust,
 " His Majesty's concurrence in a selection so
 " honorable to myself. The sense of which, is the
 " surest pledge to the Republic, that in no instance
 " shall I desert the principles on which it is found-
 " ed, nor shall I cease to evince my gratitude for so
 " flattering an approbation.

" My predecessor experienced, by his death,
 " the regret of not seeing the fruits of his valor
 " complete, by witnessing the pleasure of your
 " emancipation. I shall ardently court the honor
 " of falling in battle, provided, with the resigna-
 " tion of my life, I am sensible only for a mo-
 " ment, the object you contend for is attained,
 " and that my services have conduced to put you
 " in

“ in possession of the delightful sweets of liberty.”

THE new Commander was not long e're he gave proofs of his activity. On horse back each day, and attentive in reconnoitring in person the motions of the Austrians, he made such able dispositions of his own troops, that notwithstanding every effort to penetrate his lines, the Austrians were constantly baffled. Daily skirmishes occurred, aggravated in their consequences by the rancor of each party ; Richelieu presented himself on all sides, and his vigilance resisted the possibility of any impression. Informed of a village being in the momentary possession of the enemy, he flies to its relief, disputes the ground inch by inch, and supplying fresh troops, retires not from the scene, until he forces an evacuation, and supplants the occupants by a Garrison of his own.

HIS warlike avocations were no hindrance to his pleasures. His train and equipages arrived at Genoa, he thought proper to display his magnificence, and the winter abounded with festivals of his creation. The rank of *Cicisbó*, in the etiquette of fashion, was too flattering to the Duke's vanity and inclinations not to adopt ; but unwilling to confine it to that decorum and respect, suitable to

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the nation, though foreign to French vivacity, he endeavoured to leap over those bounds, which the Italians had affixed to this character. In the person of Pelinetta Brignolet, the Lady to attend whom he was chosen, Sister in Law to the Doge, he found a reluctance, which the ardor of his genius had not been accustomed to; and his knowledge in physiognomy, that promised him an easy conquest, was on no occasion so egregiously deceived. The family of Brignolet consisted of three Brothers, one the Doge, another a Senator, the husband of Pelinetta, and the third bearing the title of Marquis, husband of a Lady called Annetta, and the Sister of the former Lady. Both women, handsome in their persons, united, to elegance of education and manners, a sprightliness and wit, that encouraged advances. In Pelinetta the repulse followed, but in Annetta the sequel of our history will shew, that visiting Paris she consoled the Duke for the rigor he had experienced with her sister in his sojournment at Genoa.

ALIKE assiduous in attention to the sex, as unremitting in his duties as a Soldier, he left no means employed to endeavor to soften, into partiality, a mind, sensible only to the civility, his at-

tendance on her prescribed. Even, observing her tendency to devotion, he neglected not those moments of exterior ceremony, and in this sacrifice recollected the disgust he felt, when the functions of his first embassy at Vienna required a similar occupation.

SEVERAL months elapsed, without Pelinetta's appearing to listen to his turn for gallantry; but insensibly, the habit of being together, inclined a favorable attention, and the mutual gaiety of their dispositions served to accelerate the deception. He thought himself on the eve of enjoying his happiness, and contemplating daily the prospect, he could not credit the illusion. Jealousy succeeded to the agitation of mind he felt. The Marquis de Monti, Colonel of the Royal regiment Italian, was the Nobleman on whom his suspicions fell; and indulging in the idea, that he was the prevailing obstacle to his hopes, he directed the Marquis' walks to be narrowly watched. Spies were not wanting; in a country particularly where it is deemed an honorable profession. Each evening acquainted the Duke with the Lady's daily transactions; and however fearful of realization of his suspicions, yet jealousy had so possessed him, that he ceased not for some time this pursuit so injurious

to the object of his attachment. Satisfied in the end, he desisted; but concluding his disappointment to have arisen from a mistake on his part in misconceiving the ground the fair was affailable, he immediately resolved to change his Battery. With this view he no longer treated lightly the duties of the Marriage state, and renouncing the doctrine of holding a breach of fidelity as a trivial sin, he made his approaches hereafter by inculcating the precepts of morality and sentiment.

THE Duke, not of a temper to despair at such unexperienced rigor, sought other consolation; his friends the Duke of Agenois, Colonel of the regiment of Brie, and the Marquis de Chauvelin, more happy than himself, were domesticated in the houses Spinola and Doria; and from the amiable circle of the French, inhabiting at that critical juncture, the city of Genoa, fortune, though loading him with public honor, refused her private favors.

THE system changed, perseverance, to complete the object, was hoped, would, in the end, be successful. Pelinetta felt more inclined, but as she found her disposition favorable, she fortified her mind by exterior, and actually practical devotion, in which her sincerity was undoubted. Richelieu's

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ardor encreasing with his attachment, he conformed to every wish, subjecting himself to the dominion of a confessor; and his attendance on his belle being mostly directed to the Church, his friends made a merriment of the gay Richelieu being devoted to such penance.

So unceasing a pursuit, and never failing to indulge her wishes, brightened the prospect of success. A few sighs, that nature yielded and an apparent sensibility, persuaded the Duke he was near his point; and that nothing but an apprehension of not meeting with that constancy expected, retarded the completion of his happiness.

At length an assignation is put into his hands. A small retired house, adjacent to the Palace Doria, is fixed upon, and an old Duenna was to be his introducer. The mystery attending the description, gave a zest to the undertaking, and en chevalier, the Duke was fully prepared to do honor to an appointment, that had been obtained at the price of such trouble.

He was cautioned against expressing any surprise should no answer be made him during the interview, as silence and darkness were preliminaries indispensable. To a heated mind, sanguine of the blessings that awaited it, such conditions operated as

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surer proof, and the Duke consoled himself, that what was exacted, would prevail no longer than the first meeting.

AT the exact hour he repairs to the place indicated, where he found the Duenna, with whom entering the house, he, conducted by her, traverses a suite of apartments, and is placed by her on a canopy, where he soon finds a companion seated. Impatience bids defiance to restraint, and their moments are animated.—Too soon the Duenna returns, and announces the necessity of separation. Richelieu entreats a sight of the fair incognito, which is as obstinately denied, and he is obliged to quit on the assurance of further satisfaction on the day after the ensuing.

THE Duke, retired to his house, meditated on the ridicule attached to those of the sex gratifying their inclinations; yet under such a veil of mystery and delicacy, as to have it supposed, the world are ignorant of their tendency, and equally themselves mitigate the impropriety of such errors.

PERFECTLY satisfied, however, he was very fully resolved not to controul the mode prescribed, were it persisted in. In this humor he waited on Pelinetta the next day, and his reception he thought
moer

more gracious. Several people were assembled, the conversation took different turns, and every thing, that passed and was said by her, fully convinced the Duke no regret existed for the sacrifice.

THE next day, equal punctuality and similar transports ensued. Nevertheless, some words escaping, the Duke thought he discerned a change in the sound of the voice, to the sweet melodious one of Pelinetta.—His doubts encreasing, a resolution to elucidate prompts him to seize a light, in the passage, and to introduce his fair to view. Instead of the charming object his senses had been flattered with, he has the mortifying deception of finding his attentions have been bestowed on the wife of a noble Senator, Madame de Valgo, no longer in the prime of life, and of a countenance, the very reverse of that of his adoration. Inconsolable for the trick played him, he hastens to take leave; the lady in despair, faintly manifests her hope, her honor will be a secret, and the Duke, not on her account, but to avoid being the joke of the fable, promises the most faithful compliance.

SENSIBLE of his mistake that had flattered his imagination with the success to his wishes, he redoubled his instances for the real one he sought, but fate

seemed

seemed here to arrest his progress, and Genoa appeared the ultimum of his conquests amongst the fair. Pelinetta, aware of the unguarded moment she had betrayed, studiously avoided hazarding other opportunities. In those moments of intercourse between them, she was lavish in sentimental kindness, but firm and determined in repulsing every other overture. The Duke, on his part, sickened with disappointment, resolved to quit the sight of the beloved object, who preyed so much on his mind, and to devote some time to his warlike pursuits.

HIS ability in tactics obviated the possibility of the Austrians counteracting his skilful operations. The several passes, through which alone an inroad in the Genoese territory could be effected, were guarded by men and artillery, at hand to succour and fly to the support of whichever pass was attempted for the impression being made. In short, to him, the Genoese were indebted for an internal security, the war, that was waged against them, rendered problematic.

IN this interval of tranquillity, Richelieu was desirous some distinguished action should enhance his military reputation. Accordingly, he fixed his views on Savona, a town belonging to the Sardinian Monarch,

Monarch, in alliance with the enemies of the Republic. He had observed that this place was well secured against land attacks, but that it was open to the sea; and to inspect it's means of defence on that quarter, and convince himself personally, he throws himself into a common Felucca, and in disguise reconnoitres the side exposed. Instantaneously he resolves to assail it by a night debarkation of a few troops, whilst the body of his army surrounded and besieged it by land.

In the dead of night, when the moon had closed it's splendor, the ships and regiments appointed sail towards the harbor, and under the most disciplined silence he promises himself to effect their landing.

MESSRS. D'Agénois, de Crussol, de Chauvelin, receive orders, with a portion of the troops, secretly to advance and make the diversion of a land attack, at an hour indicated.

EVERY expectation of the success of the measure was well founded, so just were the dispositions; but Providence interposed and baffled the best concerted efforts. An adverse and strong wind disperses his little fleet, and the dawn of day breaks in to discover the stratagem laid; with difficulty, he reunites them, but the object is unveiled; and the whole

fire

fire of the garrison being directed against those heads, he is obliged to make his descent, far out of the reach of the cannon, sending an order to the Duke D'Agènois to retreat. In this he succeeds without loss; and Richelieu, after having mastered all the outposts of the enemy, is compelled to withdraw himself, with what provisions, ammunition, artillery, and prisoners that fell into his hands, by the suddenness of the attack and the promptness with which it was carried into execution.

THE citizens of Genoa poured forth their gratitude to him for his activity, and altho' the intent was not attended with that success, which could have been expected, yet it fully established his talents as a warrior. His return was triumphant, and the conspicuity of it was made greater by an advantage gained at the same time over an Austrian party, by Monsieur de Monti.

PELINETTA was prodigal of her praise. Never deity to the object that adored her was more bountiful. The Duke had a man killed near him, and her anxiety, for his preservation, was equal to the solicitude she would have manifested, had a brother been concerned. It was sacrificing to friendship, but not to love.

CHAP. XI

*RICHIEU IS ADVANCED TO THE DIGNITY OF MARESCHAL:
HE RETURNS TO PARIS.—HE ENTERTAINS THE KING AND
MADAME DE POMPADOUR, AT GENEVILIERS.—DEATH
OF MADAME DE LA POPELINIERE.*

THE Duke, incessant in his attachment, but despairing of success, devized, before his departure, another means of subduing the obstinacy of the fair one he adored. In honor to her he gave in the country a most sumptuous entertainment: in a grotto ornamented with every beauty, which art and fancy could devize; cascades and water works
had

had been constructed, that attracted the admiration of each visitor, and solaced the tender mind to pleasure. Its appearance was that of an enchanted Palace, nor was that appearance merely confined to the water of the mansion, for in it the utmost hospitality reigned; and Wines of the most exquisite flavor, and meats of the most finished Cookery, were to be found in great abundance. In this delirium of the mind, he hoped to meet with success. In concert, with other Ladies, jealous of Pelinetta's pre-eminence, and envious of the transcendent virtue, that dictated her actions, he strove by frequent libations to overcome her fortitude; but in doing this and attention to the other part of his company, the Duke was the first victim to inebriation.

WATCHING an opportunity when necessity obliged her to retire, he followed closely her steps, became more urgent, and strove, by every means in his power, to obtain that prize, which he so ardently desired. Collecting all the strength nature afforded her, and the Duke's situation rendering him too weak to contend; the fair one escaped the snare which was laid.—Richelieu fatigued, fell asleep, and in this situation the Master of the feast

was

was left, without any tidings having reached his company where he had absented himself.

PELINETTA was good enough to forgive him; excepting his confession to his Valet de Chambre, no one knew of the ill success that had attended his scheme. A short time after this fête, the Austrians by different movements baffled the Duke's constant vigilance. In a skirmish of some consequence, Richelieu manifested his bravery, and well seconded by his troops, he repulsed the enemy. A defensive system was that, which he had adopted; and in it he displayed as much prudence as activity. Finally, at the end of sixteen month's sojournment, he learns, that peace is concluded, and that he is raised to the dignity of a Marechal of France (1743). The Republic, full of consideration for his services, decrees, to perpetuate their recollection, a statue of the Duke's to be placed in the grand saloon of the senate house; and sensible of the freedom and happiness, they had maintained by the Duke's exertions, they declare him and his descendants a noble Genoese, annexing thereto the honor of bearing the arms of their state, and enacting this resolution in their golden Book of Ordinances.

COVERED with laurels, he issued his orders for the re-imbarkation of the French army. This done, he prepares for his own departure, and solicits a parting interview with Pelinetta. This Lady, conscious of her powers, feared not any consequence. She received the Duke with that gratitude and sense of obligation, she felt as an individual for the safety the state had derived from his eminent services. She even had that grandeur of mind as to confess her partiality, and blushing owned that an apprehension of losing him, after his command was terminated, became a strong inducement to her to repress her growing inclination. Richelieu, on his part, testified his admiration, and lavish in her praise, entreated her pardon for any cause of offence.

IN this situation they were interrupted by the coming in of Pelinetta's sister; a young Lady, whose sentiments had already been excited in favor of the Duke, of which she confirmed the partiality in their future personal meetings, during her residence at Paris. The Republic had ordered three armed Gallies to convey him to Nice. In a body, the Senate went to his residence, the Palace Doria; and thanking him for his services, attended him to the shore

shore under the roar of cannon. The people with one voice rent the air with flattering acclamations, bestowing on him the honorable title of the liberator of Genoa. Few commanders ever carried away so much regret from a nation ; and none could, without flattery, have merited their approbation more deservedly.

FROM Genoa he repaired to Montpellier, to hold an assembly of the states, where intent only on enlarging the prerogatives of his Sovereign, he reduced, by his address and skill in negotiation and command, those assumptions of power, which the provincial parliament were verging to attain. Such was his affability, oratory, and fascinating insinuation, that in his discussions with the members, they lost sight of the main object ; and it may be said, he bore the torrent of opinion on his side, by dint of perseverance and accomplishment. In his journey from Italy, every town was emulous which should receive, with greater honor, their celebrated hero. Toulouse surpassed them in her brilliant reception. The following letter, written by the Cardinal de Fleury, a short period before his death, evinces to what height the Duke's reputation had attained.

“ I HAVE

“ I HAVE received, Sir, the letter you honored me with on the 11th of this month. I concur entirely in opinion with you in regard to the woman, supposed to be Lacadiere; and that it would be improper to apprehend, until full conviction of her identity. Nevertheless your orders may be issued to the effect of discovering her parents, her name, and she may with great propriety be asked, what brought her into Languedoc?—I cannot think she would have considered an asylum so near the province, as secure; I rather conceive, she is so well secreted, that she will never again come to light, or appear on the theatre of the world.

“ IT is Mons. de Lodève who has done himself that injury, he suspects, has proceeded from me; for I know from the clearest and most substantial information, that he openly avows his being a Jansenist. Not content with nursing such opinions, he endeavors to convert others; and the late Mons. de Montpensier declared him a complete proselite to that party. You, Sir, are too good a subject of the King's, and a Servant of the State, not to disdain the protection and encouragement of a sect, which, to use the words of the old Marechal de Villeroy, revolted and rejected the idea of either Pope or King.

“ I

" I CONGRATULATE you most sincerely on the flattering reception you met with at Toulouse. The general voice proclaims your magnificence, your probity, and that welcome, endeared to you by those of each sex.—Indeed it was impossible to succeed better. In the hopes, which had arisen from your sojournment, his Majesty would be very sorry to limit you in your time of departure ; He graciously, Sir, leaves you the perfect master thereof, and it gives me a sincere pleasure in communicating, that his favorable dispositions to you are such, that, whenever you present yourself at Court, your audience will be distinguished by marks of our beloved Sovereign's condescension.

" I AM too well assured, Sir, of your esteem, not to anticipate the joy you will express in the honor the Monarch has conferred on my Nephew*. It was far from my expectation, and the flattering manner with which it was bestowed, enhances the favor. His Majesty, in his sense of the faithfulness of his servants, actuates most forcibly the discharge of their duty, and commands their invariable attachment : Mine for you, Sir, is

* The late Duke de Fleury, who, in spite of the Cardinal's gloze, owed his elevation of First Gentleman of the Bed Chamber to his Uncle's credit and interest;

free of reserve, and to such profession Sir, you alone are entitled. *

THE good Cardinal was lavish of his praise to Richelieu, out of regard to the assistance his Eminence's administration had received, by the Duke's having effected an augmentation of the capitation and benevolence taxes. The ministry of France were ever in want, and grasping for new resources. At such a crisis whoever devised new schemes of fresh burthens on the People, and were active in it's enforcement, were sure of favor. Richelieu had merited the Minister's smiles, owing to the large contributions which he had exacted from Languedoc. He had the skill of collecting largely, without exciting murmurs. Such a person was, in the consideration of the Court, a zealous servant of the Crown, and an useful Member of Government.

RICHELIEU quits Montpellier to repair to Court, and met with the Monarch's gracious reception. His services at Genoa merited honor and reward; and Madame de Pompadour, who ruled the Kingdom at her pleasure, could not abstain,

* This Letter proves, to what a degree the Cardinal was infected with the servility and craft of Priesthood. His confessor domineered in spiritual affairs, and his Valet de Chambre exacted a good deal in temporals.

however desirous, from conferring on the Duke public marks of her friendship and favor.

IN following the thread of our narrative, we have hitherto deferred the mention of this celebrated Woman, Mistress to Lewis XV.—Indeed her influence to this epoch had not been so decided. The favorite, too well versed and initiated in the practice of Courts, had adapted himself in paying his homage and submission to the divinity who presided. But having been absent from the Court sometime, he had no opportunity of being one of those elected to join in her parties and consultations. From this moment we date the commencement of their intimacy.

THE world are informed that Mademoiselle Poisson, the maiden name of this Lady, endowed with talents, and formed by nature of a shape and mien attracting and captivating, had been cherished with care by her Mother, to repair in the end the injustice of fortune, by enlisting in those numbers of deities, through whose fascination, Hôtels of splendid appearance are raised. A Fortune Teller, had added to the crime of the Mother, by flattering her weakness in predicting her daughter, would one day be Queen; and the illusion in her mind
being

being already substantiated, she had exhausted her means, by bestowing, on her child, every Master, who could contribute to her graceful exterior. Thus, this young woman was ushered in the world, and soon fame was loud in the praise of her mental and personal accomplishments.

LE Normand D'Etoilles, a rich financier saw her, was in love, married her and fondly thought his happiness complete. Short was the enjoyment. Madame D'Etoilles, considering her present advancement in the road of fortune only as a preparatory step, and indulging in the prediction of her mother's horoscope, nursed the ambition of attaining to the rank of mistress to the Monarch.

A RIVAL obstructed her design. Madame Thiroux, wife of a Master in Chancery, had attracted at that juncture the Monarch's attention. Fortunately for Mademoiselle Poisson, the means, this Lady employed, were not formidable. She relished the idea of being noticed by the Sovereign, but wished for the pleasure, without it's concomitant restraint. The love of liberty prevailed. She delighted in conquests and disposed of them, as caprice directed; & actuated by this impulse, she quitted the field to Madame D'Etoilles, who, at the shrine of ambition,

was

was intent on sacrificing every other tie, which she merely considered as secondary.

THE King, fond of hunting, was sure in some given place, where a notice of her might be conspicuous, to meet this dangerous Syren; and to facilitate her views in attaching the Monarch, she chose for her present Cicisbeo, Monsieur de Brige, one of his Majesty's Equerries. The pretext of his connection was a desire of becoming skilful in riding, and the good financier paid rather dearly for such lessons. In the forest of Senars, were the usual meetings held, and the King having discovered them, often proposed to his courtiers the interruption of the chase for the pleasure of going to see the Mistress of Brige. Soon, what had been excited by curiosity and whim, became habitual and gratifying. The charms of Madame D'Etoilles had made their impression, and no hesitation or repugnance arose to supplant the Equerry. The Marquis de Meuse was the nobleman, to whom was committed the flattering charge of arranging matters. In de Brige he found a courtier truly supple; existing only by the will and for the pleasure of his master; and accordingly, at that moment, he refrained from all future intimacy. Her relationship to Binet, first Valet de Chambre to the Dauphin, was

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the cause of his being the person who was honored with the termination. The husband clamoured at this outrage; and an order from the court directed him to go and vent his complaints and murmurings, out of a circle, where such good fortune, had he been wise, awaited him. He thought, poor man, the law gave him a right to reclaim his wife; but without any sophism, every body directly assured him that the sovereign was the absolute master of all kind and species of property. Madame D'Etoilles quickly discerned the frailties in her royal lover's character, and as a sensible woman she determined to avail herself of them, and by their influence to gain an ascendancy and reign. Accordingly, we see her presiding over every department of state, with a power unbounded. The Ministers of the Marine, the Army, and the Finances, knew only her will. Unfortunately, with the abilities she possessed, there was no greatness of mind; and truly her election of men to fill vacant trusts was actuated by the arts of mean and despicable intrigue, whence the most servile of statesmen was the surest object of promotion.

RICHELIEU, who observed the height of power, the favorite would attain, evinced every anxiety to be enrolled under her immediate banner. At-
tentions,

tentions, adulation, and anticipation of her every wish, were put in motion to gain favor; so adapted to please the sex, Madame D'Etoilles created Marchioness of Pompadour, was happy to see the man, who, having relinquished the etiquette of the Courtier, stood foremost on the list of those, whom her charms had captivated ; and from that moment distinguished him as the most zealous in her train. So vain was she of the adoration, the servility of a Court dictated the baseness of, that her presumption caused her to offer her Niece, Alexandrine, brought up in the convent of the Assumption, as a suitable match for the Duke's Son, the Duke de Fronzac. The idea once entertained, the Marchioness was not long in signifying her wishes ; and Richelieu, however abject in his Court to her, was too susceptible of his elevated rank, not to reject the proposition. As an adroit and finished Courtier, his reply was not direct. Professing his sense of the honor, he referred the Marchioness to the Emperor, as without his participation, the Duke of Fronzac, who appertained to the House of Lorraine, could not well be disposed of in Marriage. Madame de Pompadour easily saw the drift, and never forgave this slight in the Marechal.

It is rather an act inconsistent with the Duke's life. No humiliation, however severe, he left untried to initiate himself, as a necessary man, with his Prince; and yet, we see him disdain giving his assent to a measure which would have ensured him the undisturbed possession of every favor and grace which monarchy could accord. There is no describing the effect it would have had. How can such opposite traits in the character of man be reconciled? The Duke had only to behold Alexandrine, as the Daughter of a Financier, vested with an immense portion. In the origin of his own family, there was not much to boast. Such might have operated to set aside the repugnance; and after all, nobility, divested of riches, attracts no consideration in the world.

WHATEVER may have been the motive, it is certain, that the Duke's mind was not innately forbid; or lost, in contemplation of ambition, to every noble pride. The refusal was premature, and as a Promise only, the Duke regretted, it had not been given; as this object of fondness of the mother was soon after carried off by an untimely death, and at an age so early that the nuptials could not have been celebrated. The Marchioness abandoned

herself

herself to every despair, and felt cruelly disappointed in finding all her fine schemes of ambition, which she had raised in her mind for the advancement of her family, in the alliances she had demanded for this dear Niece, being only visionary.

THE Duke, at this juncture, had conferred on him the charge of Ranger of the Royal Woods of Genevilliers, and had purchased the house of a private gentleman in the environs, destining it as his villa. Houses of the greatest simplicity, when converted into the habitations of men of wealth, fashion, and rank, soon become the seats of luxury and dissipation. Three different roads are pierced through the forest, to arrive at this place of enchantment. Servandoni has directions to extend and embellish the gardens; and it is evident, how much power served to oppress the industrious, since this very man's wife, dying five and twenty years, after her husband's laborious avocations, was not able to obtain payment for that time in which his superintendence and talents had been employed. Thus a building of simplicity was soon changed to a place of magnificence. In the additions it received, was an ice-house, the expence of which was estimated at one hundred thousand crowns; the

earth

earth having been excavated to raise a mount for the purpose, as the country around was too flat. On the top was placed an image of Mercury, which the wits of the Court represented as the Duke's crest. To the Italian's ingenious mind, the design of this was also entrusted; and himself greatly caressed, whilst his attendance was requisite, little dreaming, that himself and family would suffer such injustice hereafter.

A DUE attention, to the preservation of game, was exacted with the usual rigor. The King repaired there several times, and was delighted with the beauty of the situation, as well as the sport it afforded him. In the journal of his hunting feats, it is recorded, that in one day the Monarch was amused with the destruction of eight hundred game of various kinds. His Majesty signifying his approbation to his favorite in high transports of joy, the Marechal begged leave to have the honor of giving him an entertainment; and the favor being accorded, Madame de Pompadour was proclaimed as the deity to preside. In his department, as first Gentleman, he commanded the attendance of the actors, from the three theatres, to the great annoyance of the good people of Paris. who, whilst the feast lasted, were obliged to betake to their beds.

in early time ; instead of relaxing from the fatigues of the day, by participating in the innocent amusement of the French and Italian comedies. His Majesty felt little embarrassed with their disappointment. He was amused, and it was but in the order of things, that good subjects should feel contented, if the Monarch had a relief from the ennui environing a throne : all must bend to his will, and the Duke was too faithful a servant, not to require a prompt and decided obedience. Paris was drained for a certain time of all those talents which contributed, to her pleasures. The Maréchal did not long remain its possessor. By an accident, as he was shooting, he had the misfortune to kill a labourer. Sensible of the worth of life, he felt truly afflicted, threw away with horror his instruments of sport, vowed he never would exercise them again, or occupy himself with such barbarous diversion, and in this fit of despair disposed of Gennevilliers to the Duke of Choiseul. This nobleman even was more vigilant and strict in the preservation of the game than his predecessor. A trait to that effect is singular and merits being recorded. The plain is a peninsula formed by the river Seine, and served as a natural boundary to prevent their escape into other territories. One year, in which the Seine was frozen, the Duke devised the expedient of having

ving

ving the borders of the river lined with troops, who received directions to keep popping their guns constantly, that the terrified game might not approach it's banks; and for the performance of this gracious duty the Swiss guards, of which he was Colonel, were selected.

RICHELIEU never failed, when business took him to Paris, to shew a becoming attention to Madame de la Popeliniere. He was careful of having the annuity he had bestowed paid with great regularity, and the Company of an Abbè de Sade, who had been chosen as this Lady's constant reader, gave no umbrage to the Duke, who was earnest alone in his solicitude to cause the last moments of this woman to pass as agreeable and free of pain as possible: for she was soon after this period attacked with a cancer in her breast, which gradually accelerated her end. The Duke manifested a true and just regret.

WITHOUT a doubt she was entitled to those marks of regard and sorrow which he shewed. To his ingenious turn of gallantry, in the history of the spiral moving chimney, her name had acquired a celebrity, which was greatly detrimental to her reputation. Paris, in the annals of it's anecdotes, long preserved it's remembrance, and on the stage was exhibited the jealous character, interrogating the architect
and

and builder, if the walls, which were to contain his
 drunkenness, were not perforated, and how a remedy, in
 the construction of a house, could be devised to
 counteract such conveniencies for night visitants,
 whose welcome, by the male part of the family, at
 least, was not announced.

No circumstance could have been more favorable
 to the Duke's reputation for gallantry. Such an expedient to deceive an argus was trumpeted forth amongst the young men and women, and the former yielded the palm to his grace. He was regarded as a phenomenon, and the health, he enjoyed, served to increase the wonder. Every year, it was thought, would have terminated his career; and thousands, who speculated on lives, had cause to regret the Duke's uncommon longevity. Yet at the age of sixty, he appeared to have taken a new lease. All his actions favored of youth. In looks only a certain age was visible. To his knowledge and occupation in chymistry a great weight in opinion to this tendency was given. The public had been told of the secret, which had been imparted to him by that celebrated mountebank, and in the disappointment that occurred, by his surviving each year's prediction of it's being his last, they began to ascribe in him the possibility of immortality.

CHAP. XII.

*RICHELIEU'S INTIMACY WITH ANNETTA BRIGNOLET, SISTER
TO THE NOBLE GENOESE, HIS FORMER FRIEND,—ENTER-
TAINMENTS GIVEN THE MONARCH BY MADAME DE
POMPADOUR. THE DUTCHESS OF LURAGAIS, IN IMITA-
TION OF THE LATTER LADY, AFFIXES HERSELF AS THE
DECLARED MISTRESS OF THE SOVEREIGN'S FAVORITE.—
OTHER INTRIGUES OF THE COURT.*

THE Marquis de Brignolet, who, during Riche-
lieu's sojournment at Genoa, had promised to his
wife Annetta, that she should see Paris, was as
good as his word, and descended at the Hôtel of his
friend. The Duke, intent in hospitality to the noble
strangers;

strangers, exhibited, to their views, every thing worthy their observation in Paris, and during the six months he was favored with their company, Annetta's tenderness of mind compensated, in some degree, for the rigor, which Richelieu had experienced in her sister Pelinetta. The latter was more beautiful, but the former commanded, by a noble mien and delicate features, that attraction, which the poets have described as fascinating; and these charms were communicated to her immediate descendant the Princess de Monaco.

HOWEVER pleased the Duke was with his noble guests, his disposition was too refractory for constraint; and in the politest manner intimating his apprehensions, they did not enjoy every convenience a separate Hôtel could afford such distinguished persons, he contrived their approving of one, which they inhabited during six years they honored the capital with their residence. Richelieu was not deficient in paying the Marchioness his devoirs, though the opportunity could not occur so frequent as when locality concurred to the means being easier. He was equally polite to others whom he also regarded; and so unexampled was this man in his good fortune, that in spite of the habit and

manners

manners of the Italian, her sentiments, in respect to him, were never changed, and he obtained a decided and single preference in her esteem, as long as mutual habitation of place rendered an access practicable.

THE Maréchal, called to court by his year of rotation of service, assumed the absolute direction of all those entertainments, which Madame de Pompadour gave to dissipate the Monarch's tedium. It was an innate right the Duke enjoyed, in virtue of the reversion his father had obtained of the charge of first gentleman of the bed chamber for his son. The Duke de la Valière had been appointed the administrator, but no sooner had Richelieu entered into the duties of his office of giving the Monarch his shirt, than he contested the other rights appertaining thereto. It was ludicrous to see a Marechal of France, disputing, with another Duke, and Peer, the umpire of directing a parcel of comedians, what particular theatrical piece should be represented before the Monarch and his mistress, and this, with equal zeal and anxiety in them and the courtiers for the issue, as would have been bestowed, in the glory of selection, on a favorite general for the command of an army. Yet the Monarch's interposition,

as the contest grew serious, became requisite; and he arrogated, in the result of this important contention, some credit to himself, in having conciliated the parties, by preserving, unimpaired, the natural privilege of the one, and conceding, to the other, the separate direction of some other ceremonies, attached to his presence.

MUCH more ridiculous would it appear to the reader, who could bestow an attention to inspect into the various folio's, that have been written, to stamp such and such privileges annexed to the servants attendant on the Sovereign, as inherent to each department. The right of administering water to wash the Monarch's hands, to present him with his shirt, and other reckoned honors, equally servile, has been disputed with so much rancor by the great, that it has often involved the King in embarrassment; and altho' the decision was well weighed, and occupied possibly more of his time, than the greatest affairs of state, in which the dearest interests of his people were concerned, yet it so strongly operated, in the end, on the mind of the party, who was unsuccessful, that the regret, which he felt, was the cause of a lingering and premature death, brought on by vexation, and that corrosion

in the habit, which, disappointment in the ambitious creates.

IN the indolent and dissipated reign of this Monarch, the instances were frequent. His hours passed away, in the arms of his Mistress, after the relinquishment of the pleasure of the chase. But no attraction could have secured the constancy of a mind so enervated by luxury and its concomitants, had not this woman discerned the means of fixing him.—The “*Pare aux Cerfs*” was the disgraceful expedient; and if ever notice was held of any object tending to a duration, industrious care was taken to obviate its further impression; and sumptuous feasts, and shews of a singular nature, to which a select body of courtiers were devoted, soon dispelled the recollection.

MADAME de Pompadour had elected a chosen troop of actors. She, being skilled in the arts of dancing and singing, was placed in the first rank. Her charms and talents were so conspicuous in these accomplishments of nature, that if she had not been called, in virtue of them, to fill a splendid figure near the Throne, she would have excelled in their display on a public Theatre.—In every branch of comedy and tragedy she acted. The

Noblemen who aspired to gain her good graces, were admitted into this Royal troop; and often has a singular favor been accorded, in merit only to the candidate, for having been distinguished, as the first dancer or singer. The Duke D'Ayen, since Marechal de Noailles, the Marquisses of La Salle, de Courtenvaux, and de Langeron, were amongst those preferred; and the two first claiming the preference as singers, had no reason to repent, from, the honors and rewards lavished on them, their notes having been sung to an inattentive ear. The Dutchess of Brancas contended to be received as first singer of her sex; and supported by the weight the Duke D'Ayen's judgment gave, succeeded. It was the certain channel of preferment, and every person, ambitious of advancement, pressed to be entered on the list.

To render such a farce of Royalty consistent, and the manners of the Court appropriate, dissensions, incident to jealousy and self love, which are inseparable among the lower class, soon introduced themselves in the higher representation. Amongst the Marquisses and the female dancers, serious disputes often arose either about a figure in the dance, or a turn in the music; and

to such lengths did a disagreement of this nature, on a "*Pas de Ballet*" to be performed, by either, before the Monarch, occur, between Messrs. Courtenvaux and de Langeron, who, from friends before became irreconcilable enemies; and it required the Monarch's authority to descend from his throne to solicit the mediation of their reciprocal friends, and this being ineffectual, to command by his edict that no fatal consequences should ensue. The cabals were incessant, and no election was regarded of equal importance to that of an admission into this royal company of actors. The Viscount de Rohan and Marquis de Beuvron, the one of the House of Rohan, and the other appertaining to the House of Lorraine, both houses so eminent in heroes, were proud of the advantage they had gained in their success as candidates. In this manner were the whole court prostrate for twelve years at the feet of this divinity. None of the Nobility, though they derived their origin from an unspotted ancestry, blushed in the infamy of the parts they were playing; but laughed, at the servility of their adulation, having in it's meanness, become proverbial.

MADAME de Pompadour quitting the Theatre, where she generally played the part of a Queen

or

er Princess, retired only to her apartments in the Palace to resume the same ascendancy. There the Ministers attended to receive her orders. The Count de St. Florentin, deemed a being of no consequence, whether in station or out was the only Minister, not subjected to the frequent vicissitudes of this abandoned Court. It was in her suite that L'Abbè de Bernis, and Monsieur de Choiseul, served the commencement, and founded, the establishment of their subsequent elevation and rapid fortunes. The first, brought to Paris by being entrusted with the management of a lawsuit of one of his relatives, came recommended to the Mareschal, and was introduced at Court, under the happy auspices of the favorite and the Dutches Dowager of Aiguillon. The latter had great credit, backed by the powerful influence of Madame de Conti. This Princess had been much attached to the Dutches' Husband; and with the regret for his death her partiality had been transferred to his widow, whom on every occasion, she was assiduous in serving. Madame D'Aiguillon on her part was not wanting in turning to advantage the Princess' inclinations.

L'ABBE de Bernis, was a man considered as possessing happy talents, and especially that kind of
sense,

sense, which, in making it's way in the world, se-
 cures an advancement at Court. Madame D'Ai-
 guillon judged, his introduction to the favorite,
 would soon lead to his rise. The Abbé cultivated her
 prepossession in his favor, and assiduously paying his
 court, had often the honor of meeting the Mon-
 arch. Much noticed by him, and on the pinnacle
 of happiness, he was yet in danger of starving.
 Born to no fortune, it required a difficult exertion
 to preserve a becoming appearance in the midst
 of a court, where gaiety and splendor were ge-
 neral. The Dutches solicited through her friend,
 and both Ladies uniting to forward the Abbé's
 pretensions, he soon was made to hope he would be
 endowed with a rich benefice. Monsieur de Mire-
 poix led him to expect the first that was vacated.
 But this Minister, prejudiced against the Duke of
 Richelieu, who likewise interested himself, allowed
 his disgust to the latter to operate in this instance;
 actually conferring the first he had to bestow on ano-
 ther person, altho' the King had expressed a pleasure
 in knowing the promise that had been given, and
 notwithstanding the powerful support of the Mar-
 chioness and the Abbé's other distinguished friends.
 Madame de Pompadour felt incensed, and carried
 her complaints to the throne. It was a singular instance
 of

of a Minister not obeying her injunctions, and during her power, was equally one, wherein the presumption was not immediately fatal. His great regard for Mons. de Mirepoix prevailed, joined to an indolent turn, which fitted him little for revolutions of any sort. He plainly reminded the Marchioness of a prior observation, that his ministers were more the masters and arbitrators of fate, than himself; lamenting, he could not ordain every thing, and, on this occasion, she must be soothed, in an assurance, that if the person, honored with her protection, could not have a benefice, he should, on the very next bishoprick devolving, have a pension conferred on him, out of it's revenue of six thousand livres.

IN conformity with this resolution, a short time after, Monsieur de Mirepoix presented to the King, a nomination, for another person, to be executed. His Majesty, in signing it, was true to his word, and annexed those conditions to the patent. In vain, the minister remonstrated—the Monarch cut him short, by observing, if the clergyman, whom he favored, did not choose it's acceptance with those terms, there was no occasion for his encumbering himself with the trouble. From this decided moment in the Abbé's
fortune,

fortune, it's commencement may be dated. A feat in the Council, next Minister of State, then disgraced, afterwards a Cardinal, and in our days Minister of France at the Court of Rome.

MADAME de Pompadour was grateful in her remembrance of her old lover de Brige. The instant, the Monarch had testified his inclination for his mistress, was the signal for De Brige, to break off all connection; and that his conduct might be more marked, he formed immediately another attachment, which he was sedulous should attract the world's notice. His Majesty was well pleased with his delicacy, and upon the death of Mons. Neffier, first Equerry and Superintendant of the Royal Stables, being announced to him by the Marchioness, he remarked, he had not a doubt but that their sentiments united in wishing the succession to these offices to become De Brige's; and accordingly he was invested.

DURING the Maréchal's year of attendance, he improved his intimacy with Madame de Lauzais, whose constant attendance, being Mistress of the Robes to the Dauphiness, was required at Court. This lady was sister to the unfortunate Madame de Châteauroux. The Duke and she had
long

long been acquainted, but without feeling that tendency to union, which, frequent opportunity, joined to innate esteem, seldom in two susceptible breasts, fails in the end to create. To this inclination, succeeded the firmest friendship. Madame de Lauragais, clever and insinuating, knew how to appreciate the Maréchal's worth, and equally to parry any ill turn that might be designed against him in his absence.

MONSIEUR de Maurepas, Minister of the Marine department, was that person of all the rest, whom Richelieu detested the most. His talent for ridicule and pointed satire in verse, were the cause of dread in many; and Richelieu knew to whom to attribute some severe epigrams, however anonymous, which had excited the risibility of the court against him. Fortunately the Duke had his revenge, without making it personal. Maurepas, sacrificing everything to a sally of wit, diverted his guests, with an extempore couplet on the Marchioness; and on what a woman never forgives, a defect of nature, which was thought invisible, yet well known. The lines were soon repeated and the insult felt. Maurepas was remerciéed, banished the court; and only on the accession of Lewis XVI. recalled. All
powerful

powerful at this second epoch, he evinced, by his administration, more strongly than before, what had been thought of the nullity of his character; so that he was designed in the world only as a man whose reputation for wit had brought him forward, and had subsequently been the motive for his disgrace, and finally combined with the hardship of removing a minister on so slender a pretext, to remand him in the ensuing reign to the occupation of posts, which nature never granted him the capacity of discharging with credit to himself, and advantage to the nation. Monsieur de Rouillé, a man as deficient and incapable of filling a trust of that importance as his predecessor, was the person fixed upon and accordingly called to it by Madame de Pompadour:

THE differences, which arose between the Clergy and the Parliament having been the means of the exile of Rouillé, his Majesty destined the Duke, intimately connected with the first president, to treat, and to hit upon expedients, for their conciliation. In the conference with the Monarch on the mode of terminating this weighty affair, the Duke discerned, in his Majesty, an energy of mind, which he was unprepared to expect. The Prince appeared so fatigued with their repeated dissensions and constant remonstrances, that fancying the power laid entirely

With him of doing "*comme bon lui semblera*" a maxim, which had industriously been inculcated by those entrusted with his education, and too proud and indifferent to enquire, whether such authority legally descended to him, as vested in the constitution. He had fully determined on a dismissal and complete annihilation of all the Parliaments in his kingdom, could he have obtained the concurrence and support of a bold Minister, to so decisive a measure. In this resolution, engendered by vanity and the opinion of his divine right, he did not long persist in it's maintenance altho' not opposed in the indefeasible principles of government, which he had laid down and proposed to himself for action, yet not receiving the sanction of any Minister, and those mostly employed, seeing, in such a catastrophe, the dissolution of their rights, as peers of Parliament; his Majesty thought proper to relax in his intentions, & in his negotiations, running from one extreme to another, betrayed a weakness, of which, the firmness of the body, he had to counteract, espied the advantage, and gradually improved their claims in compelling the Monarch to concede.

CHAP. XIII.

MARRIAGE OF MADEMOISELLE DE RICHELIEU, WITH THE
COUNT D'EGMONT. ADVENTURE OF THE MARESCHAL
WITH A RELIGIEUSE. A SEVERE ILLNESS CONFINES
HIM TO THE HOUSE FOR SIX OR SEVEN MONTHS. HE
IS NOMINATED GOVERNOR OF THE PROVINCE OF GUI-
ENNE.

THE Mareschal de Richelieu had issue, by his
Marriage with Mademoiselle de Guite, a Son and
a Daughter. The Son, called Duc de Fronfac,
was brought up under the care of a particular Tu-
tor, who attended his young Pupil, to the Col-
lege

lege of the Jesuits, a seminary, famed for the education of youth. This young man was honored at the age of seven years, with a regiment of Dragoons, of which he was appointed the Colonel, and which had been raised for this purpose, by the province of Languedoc, in compliment to his father, their Governor, and which, the states maintained at their own expence during the war.

HIS Father, in his infancy, was much attached to him; and after he had gone through his Classics, an illness, which sedateness and application had brought on, was thought so seriously of by the Marechal, that he hastened from Montpellier to Paris, to prescribe and administer himself the remedies, which he deemed salutary for his recovery.

IN the course of years this paternal attachment was much changed. It is needless to go into the reasons that induced this perversion of nature. The father complained of the son, as much as the son did of the father; and their friends saw with grief, twenty years before the Marechal's decease, that he considered his son in the light only of an heir, ambitious of possessing the succession, that must devolve to him; which was too much verified, by
the

the impatience he manifested, uttering observations, on the father's longevity, depriving him of many pleasures and indulgences incidental to his age.

It was not thus with Mademoiselle de Richelieu. Her father doated on this accomplished daughter, and her filial affection and gratitude for his attentions only ceased with her death, which happened much too soon, not to excite a sincere regret in those, by whom she was known and truly beloved. Her personal accomplishments were eclipsed by her mental, and the affability, she shewed to all ranks of people, occasioned an united suffrage in the father's just commendations. An Aunt, Abbess du Tresor, had the merit of superintending and perfecting the education of this charming person. With her years the beauty of her figure encreased, and when she appeared in public; a general voice proclaimed her, as one of the first ornaments of the Court. The Marschal often visited her whilst she resided at the Monastery, and as brother to the Abbess, he was privileged in ranging through it's limits.

In these solitary peregrinations, he remarked one day a beautiful Nun, deploring the injustice of a brother, by whom she had been compelled to adopt the religious habit. The Duke attracted her attention,

tion, and, entering into conversation, found this sister of God intent on worldly contemplation. He improved the moments, that hazard offered him, and whether or not the discovery was made by the Abbess, it is certain she was admitted from that moment into her intimacy, and carested as an object, that had acquired the regards of her brother, for whose inclinations she felt a decided partiality. This connection lasted till the poor girl's death, who was carried off at an early age, a victim to that mode of life, nature never had destined, she should waste in practical austerity.

MADemoiselle de Richelieu approached to that age, when it was deemed proper, that whoever was the object of her choice, should be fixed. The father, in intimate friendship with the old Maréchal de Bellisle, had thought of his only son, the Count de Gisors, for his son in law. This young nobleman, just returned from his travels, was presented, and favorably received; and endowed with a brilliancy of figure and talents, that rendered him worthy of such an alliance, he was thought acceptable by the young lady, and preparations for the nuptials were in train, when fate decided, that her hand should be given to another nobleman equally worthy. The arrangement had been made without the previous participation of the Duke's sister, the Dutchess

Dutchess Dowager D'Aiguillon. Her consent was however necessary, and when it was intimated, could not be procured. This lady remonstrated warmly to her brother on the inequality attending it; observed, that her niece, allied to the Emperor, could not be so unsuitably matched as with the grandson of Fouquet, from which alliance, if a son issued, he could hardly prove his claim for admission into the honor of Malta. These considerations, backed with the personal solicitation of the Count D'Egmont, broke off the former intention.

No party of equal consequence could be more flattering to the house of Richelieu. The Count D'Egmont, in his own right was Prince, allied to the first Sovereign houses in Europe, and with a splendid fortune, possessing great popular character and general esteem. His offer was treated with a respect, that could admit of no denial, and the marriage of the parties was celebrated with every possible magnificence. From the event, resulted an animosity on the part of the old Marechal de Bellisle to the Duke, which was only extinguished with the death of the former.

SHORTLY after he had enjoyed the happiness of bestowing this favorite daughter, on the representative of a house, in whose alliance, so much credit

dit redounded to his own, he was afflicted with a severe illness, that reduced him in it's course to a situation as humiliating as Job's. In this misfortune, he experienced the lively friendships of Mesdames de Lauragais and Brignolet, and the comfort of such friends, in so long a confinement, with his good constitution, produced an effect of nature in his favor, which soon restored him to the world, perfectly reestablished.

SCARCELY, had his convalescence admitted of his paying his respect to the Sovereign, than the rumor of war prevailed. The English captures of L'Alcide and Le Lys, with intelligence of the French possessions in India, having been attacked, determined the Court, however pacifically influenced by the Monarch's disposition, to resist force to force. Yet no plan for operations had been proposed.

AN order awaited his recovery to depart for Montpellier, and assemble the States of the Province to obtain their acquiescence and supply of some new taxes, that had been created. It was his last voyage to that province in this capacity. The night he took leave of his Majesty to depart, he had supped with the King and Marchioness at Choisy, and in
a cabinet

a cabinet council that had been held that day, he had been translated to the superior government of Guyenne. The Monarch attended his elect to the travelling carriage, in which his journey was to be performed, and having heard much of the luxury, convenience, and accomodation, the traveller had devized for himself in the formation of this vehicle, he was minutely attentive to every particular, and complimented his favorite, on the taste he had displayed. It's construction was curious, and truly applicable to the name it bore, (*Dormeuse*). It was a bed, suspended upon springs, that moved gently within a casement, which was darkened by venetians, or admitted of as much light as the occupier chose. In the recess was a silver utensil, containing various sizes of pans, into which any cookery, he directed, was gradually heated by means of an hot iron communicating therewith. In other parts likewise, were places carved out for every convenience, and no eastern prince could ever be so lavish on gratifying his wants, wherever he was situated, than the Duke himself. A journey to him of any length was of no consideration, nor was the season of the year, however rigorous, an obstacle. His people, accustomed to strict obedience, and indulged by their master, as far as servants could expect,

never murmured to accompany him in the greatest frosts, nor thought of the difference, which attended their respective situations, the one enjoying himself as far as circumstances permitted, and the others exposed to the intenseness of the weather, and every hardship attendant on the service of a nobleman, who generally travelled post, without stopping at any inns on the road, having those refreshments with him, for which, he was indebted to his own genius.

THIS absence from the Court was not of any duration. • On his return, he solicited the government of Guyenne, and although he was not opposed, yet he had not the good fortune of being immediately supported by the Marchioness' concurrence and advice, nevertheless his credit with the King was so great, that he overbalanced all these obstacles, and obtained one of the first lieutenancies in the kingdom. The Count D'eu, a legitimated Prince of the Blood, had resigned it in disgust; and the inhabitants of the province, sensible of the Marechal's character and of the successor's superiority of reputation and fame, felt no reluctance in the change.

INVESTED with this dignity, he found it nevertheless out of his power to repair to Bourdeaux, where

where the honors due to his station awaited him. Every appearance foreboded that war was inevitable; and Richelieu, aspiring to be commander in chief, knew the value too well of personal solicitation, to sacrifice it to vain honors. Madame de Pompadour observed the same system of conduct in regard to his wishes in this instance. She seemed neither earnest, nor in any way determinately adverse. The Duke, taking advantage of the latter disposition, urged the Monarch for the preference, and employed, to gain the favorite Mistress' consent, his friends Mesdames de Lauragais, D'Aiguillon, and Mauconseil. But female union and perseverance were irresistible. In favor of any candidate, they must have been decisive; but the Duke had the Monarch's wish, although the Marchioness rather leant to the interest of Monsieur de Soubize, however that Nobleman had not then attained to the rank of a Marechal of France.

CHAP. VI.

LEWIS XV. REPAIRS TO FLANDERS. SIEGE AND SURRENDER OF COURTRAY; THE KING'S ILLNESS AT METZ. DISGRACE OF MADAME DE CHATEAUX. RICHELIEU'S CONDUCT AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE. MADAME DE CHATEAUX DIES. THE DUKE, RETURNED FROM PRESIDING AT AN ASSEMBLY OF THE STATES OF LANGUEDOC, SPENDS A NIGHT WITH HIS MAJESTY, IN DEPLORING HER LOSS.

THE King, influenced and inspired by Madame de Châteauroux, joins his army at Lisle, on the 12th of May, 1744.—Eight Noblemen, honored with his intimacy, are named as his Aides de Camps; and
 Richelieu

Richelieu, distinguished as first in that number, promises to evince, in sight of his sovereign, that Mars equally with Venus proclaims him a favorite. The Sieges and surrenders of Courtray and Ipres were accelerated by the presence of the Monarch, whose troops vie in feats of emulation; and the end of this Campaign would have been glorious, had the successes in Flanders not been clouded with the intelligence of Prince Charles having penetrated across the Rhine, and pushed his incursions into Alsatia. During the siege of Courtray, Madame de Châteauroux, whose junction with her Royal Lover, was fixed at Lisle, continually was honored with his correspondence. Awaiting anxiously for the moment that was to require her departure from the Capital, she repaired to the villa of Monsieur de Burnoi, situated on the road, leading to that celebrated fortress; where messengers in the employ of the Duke, conveyed the Monarch's, dispatches; his intercourse of Letters, with this Lady, being forwarded through the communication of his confident.

THE King quits his army in Flanders to join the scene of active operations from the still more considerable force in Alsatia, under Marechal de Noailles. The Marechal de Saxe remains in

Flanders,

Flanders, and concentrates the troops he commands, to act only on the defensive, a system, where requisite to be exerted, held in great estimation, as a capital branch in that science.

MADAME de Châteauroux, recently created Mistress of the household to the future Dauphiness, sets out with her sister the Dutchess of Lauragais, to partake in being a witness of the exploits, which, she indulged the hope, would redound to the king's honor. Her ardor, to enjoy the fruits of her work, lengthened, in her idea, the distance from the capital, where she trusted soon to hear his eulogium loudly proclaimed. No voyage ever was undertaken under happier auspices, and none concluded under more poignant sensation. She enters Metz, with the king; on the 4th of August, four days after, the fatigues of the campaign, and a stroke of the sun, give the Prince a severe headache, attended with symptoms of fever. Immediately all around him are alarmed. They conceive him dangerously ill; and the Monarch himself, depicting the imagination prevailing, deems his malady a serious one. The Duke de Richelieu, alone, sensible of its trifling consequence, in vain endeavors to dispel the Monarch's fears, assuring him,

that

that a low diet and gentle alteratives will effectually remove his complaint. The king, from the countenances of his attendants, sees his disorder magnify; and yielding to this weakness, it assumes an unfavorable aspect.

MADAME de Châteauroux and the Dutchess of Lauragais quitted not the bed of sickness; the Duke de Richelieu, in quality of first Gentleman of the Bed Chamber, refused the entry to all those, whose services were not indispensable. The Bishop of Soissons and the Duke of Chartres were of the number of those to whom admittance was denied.

THIS conduct, impolitical in the Duke, and alone excusable on the motive that it lessened the king's fears of his situation, spread a general alarm. The enemies of those, whose interest prevailed at Court, feigned apprehensions for the Monarch's conscience; and interesting the church, an universal cry arose of the scandal, of leaving His Majesty's salvation at that juncture, to the mercy of two women of bad repute, whom they considered as the cause of his illness; and all access to him, under the absolute authority of a man they pronounced of the most depraved character; at those suggestions, the king, naturally well inclined, had imperceptibly

imperceptibly been led, and had addicted himself recently to licentiousness and illicit connection. The Priests, violent in their murmurs, protesting the king was dying, without the possibility of the extreme unction, &c. being administered, forced the entrance for both parties; and they soon environed, notwithstanding the dispositions that had been made, the Monarch's bed of sickness.

His Majesty's state of health was exaggerated, to give effect to the design, the cabal had in view. It was urged to him, the necessity of his receiving the unction; and this from the certainty that he could not partake of this sacred and indispensable ceremony, without previously purifying his presence by commanding the absence of Madame de Châteauroux. Richelieu singly represents to the King that he is in no danger, and his Majesty, however weakened by this scene, protracts his resolution. Fresh endeavors are used, and the Monarch at length staggered, by the general wish that appears, reluctantly assents. In vain the Duke renews his argument, and opposes such intention. His Majesty exclaims—"What can I do? you see how desired it is?—I must yield to the will manifested, and to your care and attention I recommend Madame de Châteauroux."

THIS

THIS lady had met with insult on her entrance in this city, where plebeian manners and notions governed the public, who scrupled not to encourage the cabal loudly, to vociferate their curses on the woman, who caused his Majesty's separation from an amiable consort, and the fatal apprehended one, from a people, by whom he was adored.

THUS the act, which she had endured, by the caprice of fortune, added only to the praise of the sovereign. The French ever in extremes, were profuse in bestowing their commendations on the Prince, who hazarded his life in the view of defending them; and sorely lamenting the journey, which he had taken on their account, should turn out so unpropitious they placed for this single step, undertaken at this Lady's sole suggestion, Lewis XV. in the rank of their greatest monarchs! "Oh!
 " good people how deceived thou wert, in flattering
 " thyself it was the well beloved's voluntary act, on
 " whom thou conferr'd, for such trivial merit, so
 " glorious a title, which years of good actions alone ought to have earned! and, how culpable
 " is the Prince and his Ministers, in not deserving
 " well of thee, when so little, to attract thy un-
 " bounded applause, is proved requisite!"

THE Queen approaching towards Metz, accelerated Madame de Châteauroux's departure. She felt herself impressed with the most mournful ideas. Her imagination, a victim to the general terror that seemed to surround the Monarch, could not be reconciled to the assurance, which her friend the Duke had given, viz. that no actual danger existed. The agitation of her mind is visible in the following letter, she addressed to Monsieur de Vernage, his Majesty's first Physician.

“ REGARDLESS of all comfort, I quit this place,
 “ seeing every person about the King equally dis-
 “ tracted. For God's sake, Sir, be collected, and
 “ give full force to your ability. If I have any
 “ hope, it is alone in you. I am indebted for one
 “ life's preservation to your kind care.—Allow me
 “ to trust the obligation will be doubled. You
 “ have been called in when the patient despaired;
 “ so that, if the worst should happen, which God
 “ forbid, your want of skill, Sir, can never be im-
 “ peached. Try therefore, I beseech you, every
 “ means. Exert yourself, and think of the gra-
 “ titude of a nation, as well, as the sense I must
 “ ever retain.

“ With esteem and regard, Sir, &c.

“ THE DUTCHESS DE CHATEAUROUX. ”

WHAT

WHAT a singular fatality attends persons raised to such eminence. This Lady a few hours before, whose nod anticipated obedience, cannot, the moment the reverse is announced, command a close carriage to depart clandestinely, from a place, where insult to her person was dreaded. Even in the King's stables, she meets with refusal; and from the devoted courtiers, innumerable pretexts to cover the harshness of their excuses. Unfortunately the Duke had only his desobedient. Two places are requisite for the Sisters, whose terrors, from the delay, encreasing, Richelieu is incensed, and feels not his passions calmed, by the opportune offer of the Maréchal de Belisle's carriage.

THE Duke de Richelieu alone at this critical juncture manifesting the disinterestedness of his friendship, wished he could have accompanied her; but his duty retaining him near the King's person, he entrusted her to two gentlemen of his suite, directing the conveyance, to take a bye road, that these Ladies may avoid the mortification of meeting her Majesty. He forbids their quality to be disclosed, and travelling thus incognito, they experience the regret, of hearing, at every place where they stop, imprecations vented against them, which possibly restraint,

from

from personal offence to the sex, might otherwise have deterred. The precaution however was just. The people, throughout the country, are caught with the opinion divulged by the court. Post horses are denied; D'Argenson, the Minister, having directed their being kept for the Queen's suite, and the expedient of observing, that they are Sisters of the Duke going to meet her Majesty, and the respect of Richelieu's livery, scarcely suffice to procure their conveniency, and to dispel the uneasiness of these Ladies, by being conducted in safety to the capital.

IN this interim the King was making his peace with Heaven. On the day he was to confess & receive extreme unction, the Duke of Richelieu has an anonymous letter conveyed, apprizing him, it was expected he should absent himself; as he had given great offence to all good people in opposing himself to the King's salvation, and the ceremony would be profaned by his presence. Such an intimation was of little consequence to a man of the Duke's vigor of mind. He repairs in haste to the King. D'Argenson, perceiving him (the King having brought with him all his Ministers), rises; and accosting the Duke with serious concern, entreats his immediate departure for Paris, alledging the reasons that had been detailed in the anonymous production, and enforcing the

the

the propriety of his measure, from his intimacy with Madame de Châteauroux. Richelieu, suspecting his sincerity thanks him, acknowledges his gratitude for so valuable a service intended; but adds that feeling it his duty, to remain near the King's person, he shall not desert his post, whatever risk he may incur. In vain Monsieur D'Argenson repeats his solicitations, confiding, with tears in his eyes, to his knowledge, that the Bishop of Soissons, whose office it is to administer the extreme unction to his Majesty, has resolved to address himself publicly to the Duke, rebuking him personally for having instigated the Monarch to the evil acts and disordered life lately manifested: Richelieu, firm in his previous determination, and as versed in political intrigue as the Count, gives no other reply, than desiring he would accompany him into the King's apartment. The Duke was fully aware, that if the King recovered, his enemies would interpret his absence, as having abandoned the Monarch in his last moments, however incumbent, the duties of his charge imposed on his remaining; and that such an idea once inculcated, the Monarch would never pardon him; on the contrary if the King's malady proved fatal, there was no more to be gained by having quitted the scene than remaining. Attached naturally to his Sovereign, he could

not

not either bear, that such a suspicion of dereliction, of all gratitude and principle, should exist and be attached on him. His mind was prepared with fortitude to meet every rebuff, and to repel every risk; and, notwithstanding the threat denounced, to execute, unimpeded, his functions.

THE Duke de Richelieu compares the apartments of his Majesty, on that day, to the ingress and egress of the Pitt at the Opera House, in those nights when the spectacle is well crouded. With difficulty, he gains the inner room, approaches the sick bed with that innate confidence, a mind superior to embarrassment feels; and valuing himself on his skill in medicine, demands of his Majesty leave to feel his pulse. Immediately, with an audible voice, he pronounces the King's fever has abated, that it will soon intermit, and his Majesty, thanks to the Almighty, has escaped all danger. The Monarch turns to him with kindness, and holds, with him, a conversation, which, from his feeble state excited, in the courtiers, a surprise; at this juncture the Bishop of Soissons, heading the priests, with the host, arrives. Richelieu, without retreating one step, assumes a gravity of countenance suitable to the occasion, and directs his looks steadfastly on the Bishop; who, in his exhortation to his Majesty, contrary to what had been projected, whether

ther intimidated or not by the Duke's composure, divested himself from all personal reflection, and even distant allusion.

IN the Duke's relation of his Majesty's illness he preserved an uniformity of sentiment, which, others, actuated either by interest or feigned concern, pretended not to give into. Richelieu always maintained the disorder was of no consequence, which his frequent opportunities of seeing it's progress, joined with his knowledge, fully enabled him to ascertain the fever was only a slight one, attended with no dangerous symptoms, from no virulence in the habit, otherwise than what was produced from the agitation of mind, which, the evident terror in the attendants surrounding the Monarch, inspired: And that constraint, which the King was compelled to suffer, by separating himself from a woman, whom he adored, to qualify and sanctify the act of religion proposed. Richelieu saw, with concern, the ascendancy of the cabal against this unfortunate woman, insidiously obtained through the means of the church; and early concluded, this would be the result of the play, in which her sacrifice was devoted. It is well known that this epocha, which would ever have been rendered memorable, had the Monarch known

how

how to appreciate the love of such subjects, was attended by a general Mourning. An universal lamentation prevailed. Women, children, old men, Beings, in short, of all description, ran to the churches, and prostrating themselves before the altars, loudly supplicated the divinity's interposition. Every species of religious deprecation reigned throughout the Kingdom, and the most important business was set aside for prayer. Couriers on couriers, dispatched to the capital, traversing the country in different directions, were idolized or reprobated, by the people, according to the hope, their information created. Had perfection in government marked it's uninterrupted existence, from the moment this Monarch ascended the throne, no greater interest, in the continuance of his life, could have been displayed. Soon the bewailing is changed into drunkenness of joy. The convalescence of Lewis is announced, and the extremes of grief yield, to the wildest enthusiasm of inexpressible transport of satisfaction in his recovery. How glorious must it be to a feeling mind, to view such a contrast? Lewis, in this moment seemed only occupied in displeasure to the Dauphin, who, prompted by filial duty, had flown to the relief of his father. The Monarch,

narch, on the contrary, insensible to parental regard, accused the son of ambition having dictated the measure in the desire for speedy succession, exiled the Prince's governor, the Duke de Chatillon, and hence forward ever shewed the Dauphin, a cool indifference, nay aversion.

THE regret of the reader is excited to observe sentiments so unnatural in a Monarch, said to be well inclined. His antipathy encreasing, he refused the Dauphin admission into his councils, and kept him in ignorance of that knowledge in public affairs, which was suitable to his making a figure on the throne, for which he was destined. In this manner had these princes successively been educated. Their governors instructed to instil lessons of subordination, endeavored to impress, on them, the strength of absolute authority, which they were to exercise, when once called to the reins of empire. Lewis XIV. XV. and the Dauphin, of whom we are now speaking, were victims to this system. However disposed to act with propriety on ascending the throne, their inexperience obliges them to have recourse to men whose interest laid in their deceit. With a judgment diffident, though possibly not destitute of genius, yet irresolute, they wander in

search of truth, and often give their sanction to an edict, in the conception of it's tendency being salutary, when probably, it may have been founded on an intention in the Ministers to tyrannize, on subjects, to whom alone, they consider the Monarch, as involved in responsibility. In every department where Ministers act, they each assume their master's sovereignty. He, uninformed, sees only through their medium, and trusts implicitly to their decisions being conformable to justice. You may compare the Monarch to a situation coeval to a blind man's. If well guided he stumbles not ; if on the contrary, every atrocity is committed, and the public good may truly be said to be sacrificed, when the Minister, intent on encreasing his fortune and the grandeur of his house, is inconsiderate of those imposts, with which the nation are burthened. In Lewis the Fifteenth's reign, the frequent fluctuation of Ministers made them less attentive ; and as a certain reward was attached to those, who had been entrusted with the secrets of government, they felt indifferent as to their permanence ; the system of each was the present moment, for whether honest man or defaulter, the reward of a pension of forty thousand livres was equally bestowed. The Abbé Terrai, in the reign of this Monarch, is guilty of a
 flagrancy

flagrancy of conduct, which few examples can exceed.—On the very day of his master's death, he publishes an edict for a new tax, and gives occasion, to a severe Satyrift, deploring the iniquity of the times, to draw, from Gresset, a line forcibly applicable to the misery, that pervaded the latter years of Lewis the Fifteenth's government.

“ C'est ainsi en partant, je vous fais mes Adieux.”

“ It is thus as I leave you, I bid you good bye.”

Our indignation is such, when we contemplate the indignant measures, which, without any sort of compunction, were adopted in the latter part of this king's administration, that we are led insensibly into further digression on a topic, which, we flatter ourselves, cannot too often recur to the recollection of true Frenchmen. Where no choice dictated the appointment of Ministers, no security could exist in their integrity. In those selected, alternately we see, that ignorance or talents, intrigue or merit, vice or virtue, were blended, without the discrimination of freeing, from the momentary caprice of constant variation, those, who merited, by a display of good qualifications, their situations being permanized. Where therefore is the wonder, that men, impatient of such hardship, should, at length, have nobly determined

to emancipate themselves from the pressure, grown too burthenfome to be longer fufained ? Succelfive depredations had brought the ftate to that mafs of debt, which it could no longer bear. In vain, palliatives were attempted ; and the minifter, who devized loans, was honored by an ignorant people with the mockery of a triumph. The bubble foon burft, for to pay this addition of debt, new impofits were requifite ; and nothing, which the courage of the Minifter was unequal to, could be attempted effectually for the relief of an oppreffed people, than fubjecting the difburfements in future to keep pace with the receipts. Delay upon delay occurred, 'till the people, once called together, knew the force of deliberation, and refolved to act with that energy, which formed for them a better and a more rational fyftem of government. It is earneftly implored in their behalf, that they may never again relax to wear thofe ignominious chains, of which they had incredibly borne fo long the ponderous weight.

Without a doubt, on the education of the Prince depends the happinefs of his fubjects. Few men are born, prone to evil ; and we know, that cultivation of habit, with ferioufly contracted example, will fow, in time, the feeds of virtue, and
 eradicate

eradicate the bad herbs, that may have been planted. A sovereign, habituated to occupation, seeing the necessity, accustoms himself to trust only to his own observation. A Minister may, for a time, deceive him; but application and perseverance will enable him soon to draw forth the veil, and punishment inflicted, will deter the successor, from falling as his predecessor. A king has only one alternative to learn. That of rewarding justly and of apportioning with justice the consequence of demerit. The one is a spur to virtue, whilst the other is a curb to vice. What signifies, if a king is well disposed, which, in the most wicked annals of many of their reigns, has been often quoted in palliation of the evil resulting from the ignorance, in which they are plunged? If I am rendered miserable, of what service to me is his goodness, if he abandons his authority to men, who abuse it, who, under the sanction of his name, throw me into a dungeon, destroy my fortune, who, purloining from the revenues of the state, supply the deficiency of their peculation, by a decree of council, condemning me to pay that proportion, of which I have already acquitted myself? Let those, who choose, examine into the late king's edicts, decrees, or orders. Such a jumble of contradiction will

be

be exhibited, as would astonish the weakest mind. In one day creating; in the other overturning. The same in acts of finance as in posts; equally put up to sale, and equally subjected to instant annihilation. His whole life manifests a constant revolution, devoid of principle in it's operation, and consequently totally unchecked by any moral controul. His word repeatedly pledged, with the apparent view of as often forfeiting it. In short this well beloved Monarch, proved a Stock Jobber in finance, and a monopolizer in grain; in return for such nomination, enriching himself by the plunder of his people, and even inverting their own domestic necessities to his advantage. Enrobed with the title they had conferred, he became latterly so callous to applause, that, without blushing, he often cautioned his Courtiers not to speculate in stock or annuities which he had just sanctioned; coolly observing, "*ne prenez pas d'effets sur le Roi ils ne valent rien,*" "*desist from those purchases the King has authorized, for speedily they will be debased.*"

THE King after his recovery wished to terminate the campaign, by the siege of Fribourg. This place surrendered in one month from the opening of the batteries, and the fortifications, as at Courtray, were ordered to be dismantled. Whilst those

those operations lasted, Madarne de Châteauroux, buoyed with the hope of resuming her ascendancy, writ to the Duke, earnestly entreating he would communicate freely, in what manner his Majesty, regarding her, stood affected.

RICHELIEU, faithful to the duties of friendship, sought to penetrate what passed in the King's mind relative to this attachment. Fearful to interrogate his Majesty expressly, he ventured one day to intimate, that he had received a letter from that Lady. A sensation of joy was visible, and the King not dissimulating with his favorite, testified his sincere regret at her separation, and his intention of making those feel his resentment, who had so wantonly exacted such a sacrifice. The Monarch added, that a respect for the oath, which, he had at that moment taken, obliged him to reserve his intention of compensating to Madame de Châteauroux, 'till some better and more distant opportunity occurred.

THE Infanta of Spain being destined for the Dauphin, the Duke solicited the honor of the Embassy to Spain, which had been promised to him. By singularity of caprice, his Majesty, continuing to treat him as his friend, chose to forget the assurance which he had given to his favorite. Richelieu

chelleu, too proud to reiterate his claims, complained only of the injustice to Madame de Châteauroux, who, in her answer, observes, the Master is always at liberty to do whatever pleases him; and no servant, or subject, ought to consider any thing extraordinary, which is the effect of his Sovereign's will.

AFTER a review of his troops, inspection of his garrisons, and his orders made known relative to the winter disposition of his army, he determined to conform with the wish of a loyal and affectionate people, who awaited with anxiety his return to Paris. Each town vied in displaying the real sensibility excited, in seeing the Monarch, for whom heaven had been so much invoked, restored to their wishes, in health. His capital particularized itself; and as a full account has already been given of these exhibitions, it is only worthy of reflection, that such marks of esteem and universal attachment ought to have been deemed, by the Monarch, a thousand times more glorious than the most brilliant triumphal entry, the consequence of splendid victories.

THE Duke de Richelieu had quitted the King, immediately after the surrender of Fribourg, as his presence was required to preside at an assembly of

the

the states of Languedoc. He thought, before he left him, to have discerned, that the Monarch had cooled in his attachment, and shewed no desire whatever to recall his Mistress. Richelieu imparted his sentiments to this Lady, whose mind, naturally tortured by daily expectation, and hitherto fruitless, at one time, resolved not to obey the summons without a previous sacrifice to her wrath, and a Minister of state deputed to convey his Majesty's wishes for a reunion, and at other times, manifested only her impatience to resee her lover, without a thought of stipulation of any kind.

HITHERTO no symptom of this nature had appeared. The King, returned to his capital, seemed to have entirely conquered his passion for his Mistress. The Duke was absent, and could not employ his interference in her behalf. In this incertitude their correspondence was kept up, and every trace of her seemed forgotten; 'till suddenly the Monarch conveying some messages clandestinely, the secret transpired, and gave every indication of her immediate re-appearance. It was then the apprehensions of her enemies were manifest, and according to every belief, too much suspicion attached on them, in effectually preventing the possibility of her return. Such a precaution was cruel in it's exercise,

and as Lewis the XV. betrayed that indolence of habit and apathy, that rendered his being under the dominion of the sex, a certainty; we may pronounce, it was a misfortune to the state, that such sway was not continued in the person of Madame de Châteauroux. Her energy and ardor for her lover's glory, would probably have preserved the meritorious title of well beloved, more justly than the sequel of his reign entitled him to receive. She had the courage to point out his duty; to reconcile him to hear truths spoken; and the contrast between her and Madame de Pompadour, which soon arose, caused the first to be more deservedly regretted. No influence can be ascribed to the Duke in negotiating the return of Madame de Châteauroux; and it is equally a mistake to credit what some writers have declared. They have falsely asserted, that Monsieur D'Argenson was the Minister, whom the Monarch had fixed upon to signify his gracious intention, and, at the same moment he expressed it, professed his servility, in desiring a list of those, who, it was her pleasure, should be proscribed: adding, that the Minister, foreseeing no hope of conciliation, had her poisoned. The letters, which we are enabled to furnish in this work evince the fullest proof, in contradiction of such malevolent publications.

Madame

Madame de Châteauroux, harbored no hatred to Monsieur D'Argenson ; nor even was the latter supposed to entertain a prejudice against her, without scruple, or disguise towards her, he must have at once united hypocrisy to the perpetration of the crime. Evidence in his favor is deduced in the following letter which he writ to the Duke. This latter always carried with him the persuasion of her death having been premature. Nothing however is discovered, tending to point out who the authors were. The only conclusion, he formed, was imparted to Madame de Mauconseil, and by her handed to a person of veracity, " That it was the Duke's opinion, " Madame de Châteauroux had perished, the victim " to the cabal of priests, desirous of confining the " ruling of the Monarch, exclusively to their own " order."

UNFORTUNATELY, the instant, that her reconciliation with the King became known, was that of a fatal disorder that attacked her. From the second day, it's progress was so alarming, as to be pronounced mortal. His Majesty, at this, felt all his tenderness, for her, renovate. He accused himself, as the cause of this calamity, by the privation he had imposed on his wishes. Every hour he sought relief

lief, in the hope that more favorable account of her state might be brought, and each messenger, returning with tidings more gloomy, the Monarch sunk into the most abject despair. Richelieu, equally inconsolable, so soon, as apprized of the danger attending her situation, was more vexed, from the impossibility of his leaving Montpellier, to fly to administer succour to one, whom he so greatly esteemed, and in whose state he felt such an interest. In his letters to Monsieur D'Argenson, on the affairs of government of that province, which had devolved to his care, his anxiety for Madame de Châteauroux appears. Herewith is this Minister's answer :

Versailles, 2d December, 1744.

“ I HAVE nothing, Sir, to relate to you, of so much consequence, as the uneasiness we experience from Madame de Châteauroux's dangerous situation. Obligated to dispatch your courier this evening and returning to-morrow to Paris, you will receive by him, later accounts of her health than I am able to give you. I shall be very happy, if your's are more satisfactory than mine, and that the ensuing night may not be attended with the accident, which we have reason to dread. The head ache, which exists, excites the most serious apprehension, however clear the imagination is, by her answering
justly

justly every question. Vernage has declared, that, in this illness, which has raged at Paris, worse symptoms have been visible in those, who have recovered, than such as have appeared on Madame de Châteauroux; and therefore, though they might increase, still hope might be entertained.

“What, in my observation, I dislike, are the obstructions which do not abate. I flatter myself however, that the faculty will devise some mode of removing them. It was this obstinacy, you may recollect, that alarmed us in the King’s illness, and certainly caused great reason to apprehend the loss of that valuable life.

“THIS, Sir, is the exact situation of our hopes and fears, relative to the person in question, in the present moment. You may thence judge in what a state our Master is. His countenance denotes the affliction he endures, and I wish such conflict of mind may not be prejudicial to his health. I can but faintly describe how much I partake of his sorrow, both on his account, on her’s, and on those of us, so truly concerned in her welfare; whilst others, whom I am indignant to see about the Monarch’s person, wearing the mask of hypocrisy, rejoice in anticipating the expected fatality.

“I can

“ I can say nothing at present, respecting Monsieur de la Dévéze*. His Majesty mentioned, you had written to him, but added nothing further. Feeling as I do, for the Monarch, and equally, as I am persuaded, with yourself, you can well suppose, I could not press the subject on him, however great it's importance.

“ In regard to the Archbishop of Toulouse's Nephew, I do assure you, that each time his Majesty disposes of a regiment, I introduce this young man to his remembrance; a certain proof to his Eminency, how desirous I am his wish should be gratified.

“ THERE has been no idea of a requisition to the States of Brittany, for a regiment of dragoons, and for the following reasons : First, that we are really more in want of infantry than cavalry. Secondly, because the Comptroller General, with whom this department rests, prefers supplies of money, to these levies, which he considers as more burthen some on the province; and I could not fix upon a person, in the capacity of a governor, in whom I could perceive talent and energy united, sufficient to resist the torrent of opposition, which probably would have a-

* Intendant, or Civil Administrator for Languedoc.

rifen. I might therefore have been left with the stigma of the measure, without the pleasure of it's success. Nevertheless, you may, for the consolation of those, whom you govern, inform them, that the people of Brittany will be no gainers in the end by this privation; since, it is intended, their Province shall be assessed, in a proportion, fully adequate to what the completion of such a levy would have stood in their disbursements*.

“ I AM at a loss to serve the young person whom you have recommended; for I cannot admit, that some years of attendance at Court, without even the service of one campaign in war as a Mousquetaire, possibly can afford a pretext to bring in at once a young man of the robe into the army, as a Captain of Cavalry. I know not what to advise.—In making him your Aide de Camp, and serving as such in an active season of operations, he may probably acquire such distinction, as to merit the success of what he aims; my opinion however is, that it will be better for some worthy and able Man to deter him, from adopting this line at his present time of life.

* A pleasant consolation! True remedy of Ministers for one Province, to know itself equally oppressed, with another.

“ WHEN I began, I did not think I should have replied to every part of your letter. Unfortunately, it is answering it too literally, for it recalls, without satisfying, those gloomy apprehensions contained. How happy will it make me, if in the course of a few days, I am enabled to rejoice with you on matters so essential now pending; you well know my friendship and attachment. I protest, these sensations are never so pleasing, as when employed in whatever may be of service to you, or in affording you consolation; for my confidence in you will only cease with my life, and is tantamount to the reliance, I shall, on all occasions, place on your friendship. It is a melancholy consideration, that you should not be with us at this critical juncture! What a difference in contrasting the event, we dread, to that, which, we had flattered ourselves, would arise at the time of your departure, and which indeed had commenced in the most auspicious manner.

“ I am Sir, &c. &c.”

THE continual alarms, that troubled the repose of the Monarch, and afflicted those in the interest of Madame de Châteauroux, soon turned to disastrous certainty. This Lady died on the 8th. of violent convulsive spasms, which indicated more
strongly

strongly, that her death was premature. A man attached to the Duke, who quitted not the street in which she resided, was the first in conveying this sorrowful intelligence, which was soon confirmed by others of his friends. His grief was sincere. Susceptible of friendship, he lost, in Madame de Châteauroux, a friend, whose esteem he valued, and in her ability and situation, the strongest possible support, he could enjoy at Court.

THE King was thrown into despair. In the demise of a person, whose loss we regret, every good quality possessed becomes familiar to our remembrance, and encreases, in our ideas, their estimation. This Prince was sensible, it was not only a lovely Mistress and an agreeable Companion of whom he was deprived; but a woman whose candor had prompted him to glorious actions, and who daily manifested her wish to see him, whom she beloved, reign with honor.—His affection was greater for her memory, than that with which he was inspired during her life; for had his passion been ardent, he would certainly have sought the means of privately seeing her, before her public recall, and otherwise by attention atoned in some degree for the humiliation she had been subjected to during his illness. If his conscience was not recon-

ciled to the intention of having her near him again, and he feared the consequences of a personal meeting, both such regard and feeling were due, as to have at least written; a circumstance few would believe he could have omitted, did not Madame de Châteauroux's own letters convince us of the omission. Those, truly sensible of that passion, must conclude his Majesty's was not powerful; and that privation alone of a vacuum, he at times thought he felt, was the occasion of his wishing for her return.

MONTPELLIER, where the Duke resided three weeks after the death of the favorite, evinced, by a stop to it's amusements, his regret, excited by real esteem and sincere friendship, which caused genuine tears. His ambition suffered in it's career a severe check. So much was he in favor, and such expectation did he place on her ascendancy on the Monarch's mind, that he had projected the restoration of the charge of Constable, with the view, that although Lieutenant General, if it was not immediately conferred on him, he might in the end aspire, and meet, through this Lady's solicitation, this high honor.—In tendency thereto, he drew up a memorial, wherein he establishes, the renovation of this charge would not be attended with

with any inconveniency to the state.—Here follow some extracts.

“ IN a Monarchical government, in which the
 “ sovereign concentrates the whole power, as in
 “ France, no trust, whatsoever, has either value or
 “ consequence, but in the proportion his Majesty is
 “ graciously pleased to accord to it; accordingly
 “ every one, that has been instituted, has varied in
 “ it's price and functions, in different reigns, as the
 “ Monarch willed. That of constable, which, after
 “ a series of years became so considerable, was in
 “ it's origin, very inferior as the very word denotes
 “ comes *stabuli* ” or, superintendent of the horse,
 “ or royal stables. The Mareschals of France e-
 “ qually were a degree higher than those attached
 “ to the stables; to them belonged the knowledge
 “ of horses, and on their judgment were bought
 “ and were formed the small body of horse apper-
 “ taining to the sovereign's guard. In those days
 “ the strength of the cavalry alone was known.
 “ The Mareschals, from inspecting the department,
 “ became it's leaders, and performed entirely the
 “ functions assigned to the Mareschals of the present
 “ day; over whom the constable is considered to
 “ preside. This trust was important according to
 “ the exigency of the times, and the ability of those
 “ holding

“ holding it in that age of barbarism, when the
 “ Kingdom was a prey to civil dissention. The
 “ constable Anne de Montmorency, was of all o-
 “ thers the man, who best understood the nature of
 “ his trust, and extended it's prerogatives, so as on
 “ every occasion to cause military references to his
 “ absolute determination. In all petitions he exact-
 “ ed a particular style of address to himself; and to
 “ the Duke of Guise even, who not deviating from
 “ the order prescribed, he concluded in his answers,
 “ in the true assumption of a superior “ your assured
 “ friend”; yet, however great this dignity, it did
 “ not exempt him from exile. Montmorency, Con-
 “ stable, Admiral and Grand Master or Chamberlain
 “ of France, received at Rouen an order of banish-
 “ ment, and at once despoiled of his high offices,
 “ could not resist the authority, that imposed it,
 “ notwithstanding the unfortunate spirit of oppositi-
 “ on to the royal mandate, which prevailed in those
 “ days of ignorance. But those enemies to subor-
 “ dination even acted under the influence of a
 “ chief; and history informs us, the person leading
 “ these revolts generally was a prince of the blood,
 “ who, with the towns in rebellion, had many dis-
 “ contented nobles attached to his fortunes and in-
 “ terests. I believe at this moment, no persuasion

“ is requisite to impress, that a prince of the blood
 “ could not, however ill disposed, carry weight e-
 “ nough in causing one battalion to desert it's duty,
 “ or excite the most mutinous of the people to an
 “ illegal combination against the civil administra-
 “ tor, much less therefore, would any tumult derive
 “ consequence from a Constable with the Maréchaux
 “ of France, and even, uniting the authority of the
 “ governor of the province, where the local insurrec-
 “ tion might be attempted.

“ It follows, from the above reasons adduced,
 “ that no danger can arise to the state, in recreating
 “ this charge. If any opposition is endeavoured,
 “ it must proceed from the suggestion of ministers,
 “ altogether possibly not approving that any in-
 “ dividual should, in power however separate, ap-
 “ proach near them in station; and averse equally,
 “ from invidious motive, to see a subject, raised
 “ to an eminence, where, discharging his duty
 “ with honor and credit to himself, he incites pub-
 “ lic applause. The French, emulous of martial
 “ glory, and bearing the utmost veneration for
 “ those, who have acquired it, are naturally par-
 “ tial to men, invested with such distinction, and
 “ would rally at such a standard, sooner than fol-
 “ low the dictates of a minister. It was this jea-
 “ lousy

" lousy that induced the Cardinal de Richelieu to
 " suppress this charge, and Mazarin in continuing
 " it's suppression. Louvois likewise saw with the
 " same eyes his interest in the abolition. Never-
 " theless, Lewis the 14th offered it to Turenne,
 " conditioning his conversion; and recently Mon-
 " sieur de Vendome, would have been ho-
 " nored with it, had his death not been premature.
 " Particulars verifying this statement might be
 " brought forth. Magnani, his secretary, is still
 " living, and the credit of the assertion may rest
 " on his testimony.

" FURTHER, it might be political, at this
 " juncture, to renew this charge; all others, hav-
 " ing fallen into a degradation, which the nobili-
 " ty and men of rank vie not in any emulation to
 " obtain; it's expediency, on this account princi-
 " pally, is so visible, that independent of what
 " has been said in regard to the Minister, no
 " voice of opposition to it can be surmized, unless
 " from men of the Robe, (Parliament) * who, in
 " a century more, will abrogate all the privileges
 " of nobility, and even now possibly might object,
 " from the Constable, in virtue of his office, tak-

* The class in France exercising Judicial and Civil Legislation.

“ ing precedence of the Chancellor. This, acting
 “ in constant union, may endeavour to preserve, to
 “ their chief, that strange prerogative delegated,
 “ in an elevation of rank by his charge ; to other
 “ gentlemen, holding trusts of consideration, and
 “ however dignified by innate high birth.

“ THE most formidable of the rights, a
 “ Constable exercises, is the exclusive one of com-
 “ manding in all fortifications ; but if any appre-
 “ hension is entertained of the effect such a pow-
 “ er might have, no difficulty can occur in redu-
 “ cing or taking away altogether this branch.
 “ Other distinctions, as exterior, might remain in
 “ their splendor. Such, as not ceding the post of
 “ honor to any person, attached to the service,
 “ however transcendant his dignity, and receiving
 “ the Monseigneur, on all occasions, even, from
 “ the Marechals of France.”

By the purport of this Memorial may be understood what ambitious views the Duke cherished. Unhappily, for him, his patroness was not in existence ; and destitute of her support the Ministers could no longer see the expediency of the advice given. After his conquest of Minorca, he again tried to bring forward the utility of this measure ; but the Monarch, however fond of him, and desirous

rous of meeting his wishes, had not energy enough to adopt such a resolution ; and in the ministers the same inflexible obstinacy reigned, seconded by the approval of the Mistress, whose preponderance in all acts of government was manifest, (Madame de Pompadour.)

RICHELIEU, returned from Montpellier, presents himself to the Monarch on Christmas eve. The King receives him as a favorite, with whom he wishes to enter on those points affecting his mind, where, from sympathy, he may derive consolation. He enjoins him secretly to await in his apartment, after the mass of midnight has been performed.

THE Duke, faithful in obeying the orders of his Master, is punctual at the hour mentioned. His recollection is immediately assailed by an assignation of a different nature given him, some years before, wherein he contemplated with such satisfaction his Majesty's passion for Madame de Châteauroux. This awakes his regret in tracing every particular of the greatness of his loss.

As soon as the Monarch is relieved from the vain ceremony of his couché, he retires into a closet with Richelieu, where giving vent to his feelings, he yields to the weakness that prevails. Engrossed completely by the subject of Madame de Châteauroux's

roux's death, his passion for her, her sickness, her last moments, the Monarch and his subject dissolve in tears, on the ashes of their departed friend. His Majesty freely upbraids himself, in probably having accelerated her death, by delaying so long her intended return ; and freely confesses, that, in her loss, he is only sensible of the affection that possessed him. When the mind is in that state of exaltation, it ceases not bestowing unreserved commendation. Madame de Châteauroux was a divinity of all perfection ; and the theme of her various endowments were repeated 'till the hour of parting, which, the morning breaking in, warned the propriety of. The Duke assured the King he was beloved by her as the individual ; but when blended with the Monarch, her warmth of attachment inspired her with such a desire for his glory, as made her lay aside every selfish consideration, and there was good cause to suspect, that the excess, with which she had acted, had made her it's victim. To this, he imparted the torments, she endured, when his Majesty, sacrificing his inclination to the apparent wish of his subjects, persisted in denying, to her, his presence. So near the object of her adoration, and refused the felicity of seeing him, was too great a conflict for a

mind, fraught with sensibility, to bear with fortitude. Often, to his knowledge, did she disguise herself, and, braving every danger, which might attend the delicacy of her sex, she repaired to places, where imperceptibly she might indulge herself with a private view of the man she doated on; and derived a pleasing satisfaction at his health being re-established, and at his having become the idol of the people, by the public acclamations, that surrounded him.

THE King did not express great surprize in receiving these fresh assurances, that her attachment had been sincere. He recollected all his favorite had told him, and his erroneous conduct, when she subject she addressed him upon, was business. "I was impatient towards her, when, (exclaimed the Monarch,) I ought to have been thankful. "See," said he, opening the Drawer of a little Table, and throwing Letters upon it, "In those you will discover, how she loved me, and the courage she displayed in speaking the truth."

THESE precious documents, redounding so much to her credit, were read with earnestness by her friend; and it is to be lamented, they were not preserved. The Monarch allowed the Duke to retain one, and the copy of it having been confidentially

dently given to a friend of Richelieu's, we are happy, in the opportunity of transcribing it.

"SIRE,

"THE degree of exaltation, that it has pleased your Majesty to place me in, must, at all times, raise the envious against me, and create me enemies. If ambition had been the ladder on which I ascended to such elevation, personal regard would soon have converted that motive. Were you not a Monarch, you would naturally inspire the Love felt for the Man. Judge, what my sentiments must be, when I, with pleasure, am sensible, that the glory which environs you, I participate of in some measure. You have often pressed me verbally to disclose the truth, but conceiving myself more at ease in writing it, I embrace that satisfaction.

"LET us begin, if you please, on the subject of your Ministers, relative to whom, the conversation, your Majesty did me the honor of holding with me yesterday, furnished the topic. I respect your selection. It can be but proper. I inculcate no one; but a Monarch ought to be only superintendent of the authority he delegates. Mistrust, sir, always your own conception; and think, your judgment is apt to be misled by forming of others an opinion from your

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own nature. They are men, and addicted to human frailty, it is too possible, that a personal interest may impede their acquiescence in your best measures; and therefore, however salutary, they may be for your people, still such an obstacle will prevent their being fulfilled. If these, sir, have in consequence reasons for grievance, they manage so, that the access to your august presence is debarred. Should the Ministers of your power abuse the trust you confide in them, have the energy immediately to remedy, and enact, by the dictates of your own conscience, what it must point out to you then, as the rule of right. Contemplate, sir, the blessed situation of a Monarch, surrounded only by those, on whom, his sovereignty has conferred benevolence and happiness.

“ WHEN I ventured, sir, to propose to your Majesty to assume the command of your army in person, I was far from being actuated thereto by any idea of a necessity existing, you should expose yourself to engage their fervor. On the contrary, I reason, as every loyal subject ought, that your days in this world are dedicated to the state, and that a good father ought to value his life, for the good of his family. But your presence, sir, with the Army, will cause fresh order, will renovate their confidence; and in leading them to victory, will have the effect
of

of an addition of troops, headed by the best general. Monsieur Orry has assured me, that pecuniary resources will not be wanting; that either there was enough in your Majesty's treasury, or that there should not be a failure in this necessary sinew, for the expences of the approaching campaign, which, granting your Majesty attends to my suggestion, I dare predict, although success cannot be ensured, yet it is next to an impossibility should prove so disastrous as the preceding. The œconomical arrangement, that will regulate your departure, journey, and residence with your troops, cannot fail of being a subject of approbation; and if your Majesty did not reign in all hearts, I am persuaded, this act alone would contribute to such a blessing.

“ EXCUSE, sire, my freedom, you can but be sensible, it proceeds from the sincere interest and warm attachment I take, in what must cover your Majesty with honor. Why should I indeed apprehend, that truth would be displeasing? When, from the noble mind, reserve and mystery are proscribed, what reluctance can there be in acting with candor? Were I to desist in a wish for your glory, I should cease to love you; whilst my existence lasts, I can unfeignedly assure your Majesty, both sentiments

will

will co-operate most powerfully in the mind of
 “ Sire, &c.”

HIS Majesty candidly avowed such freedom had not, during her life, often been agreeable to him, and in this dislike, he had, at times, when his mind was agitated on her account, met a certain repugnance, to invite again the same familiarity. Now she was gone, he was sensible of it's estimation. The Duke availed himself of this moment of sensibility to fathom his intention in respect to a second campaign; and he discerned, with pleasure, that, from the tomb, his Mistress' inspiration had still action enough to stimulate the Monarch to the path of glory. The King appeared decided, to rejoin the army in Flanders, conducting with him the Dauphin, his son; who was to quit the solace of his recent wedded state, for the fatigues of the field, where, the imposing reflection of a victory awaited him, with the contemplation of the miseries, attendants, at best, on such success. Richelieu was confirmed in his situation of first aide de camp, by the Monarch's gracious assurance; and the dawn was observed by them, without an idea of the time they had been together. The King parted with reluctance, still thinking, he had not given full vent to the remorse, which assailed him, by enlarging on the virtues of his deceased mistress,

mistress ; and Richelieu, equally, in not expatiating on the noble sentiments, which had marked the conduct of this friend through life.

LETTERS OF LEWIS XV. TO THE MARE-
SCHAL DE RICHELIEU.

January 3d, 1743.

THE Marchioness of Chevreuse, as well as de Farges, have, within these few days, been attacked by the small Pox, and apprehensions are entertained, from the appearance of the Disorder, that they will not escape favorably. Helvétius augurs ill of their situation. The last, in particular, has a speck in one of her Eyes, that denotes mischievous consequences.

THE Court and Paris are full of Predictions on the long lives of Messrs. de Tenein and de Richelieu. The calculation on each has even been extended to one hundred years: May you experience it's verification.

HIS Majesty supped on Tuesday with two Princesses and a Dutches, and to-morrow will be again in the same party. It is remarked, that the Countesses have not, of late, been so much noticed by royal favors, as they were before.

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THE King, at his Supper, appeared much to relish a Trout from the Lake of Geneva, sent to him by Monsieur de Richelieu. He was gay, and drank to the health of the Marechal de Richelieu, and toasted, in another Glass, the prosperity of the Marechals of France.

THE Marquis de Meuse has expressed great anxiety, concerning a pair of Slippers, which, the Hero of the day left behind him, as he was retiring to rest.

THE Marchioness de la Tournelle, is in her new apartments since yesterday ; or rather in those, occupied by her Sister.

THE Marechal de Maillebois, has manifested great uneasiness, in regard to a Bomb, that was near bursting on the head of her husband, and from a channel he did not expect. But thank heaven, the explosion has been deferred. What appears most extraordinary in this, is, that Monsieur de Luynes, who was greatly interested in it's success, has been much chagrined in the disappointment. The Dutchess of Villars has, on this occasion, been summonsed, to Paris, to undergo interrogatories, which will terminate in the Family wishing to con-
sign

sign the circumstance to oblivion, a caution, which I flatter myself, I need not enjoin to you.

THE circle of Paris are greatly occupied in trying to discover the donor of a Box of the value of 3,000 Livres, left at a certain Comess' house. Herself, and many of her friends in the secret of her inclinations, think, that it proceeds from an acknowledgement of a passion still lasting, though I am led to ascribe it rather to a token of a new attachment, to which she is likely to be susceptible. May it not be from Monsieur de R***? Suspicious fall on Monsieur de B***, and others conjecture it to be from the P****. However doubtful it is at present, the mystery will soon be exploded.

WE have had a devilish hard frost of late. With you the climate is more mild, yet the situation here is preferable.

ONE of those forty, whose lives were prognosticated to extend to one hundred years, has just paid the debt to nature. I pray God, that the remainder of us may not equally be disappointed. But this is an event more to be hoped for, than believed.

THERE are accounts from Prague, dated the 4th instant, that brings us nothing new; and some from Bavaria, dated the 13th, which, as yet, I

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have

have not seen. (1) Many reports arise from Paris, according to the various factions, that govern that city. The ensuing week probably will disclose some of consequence, both from Turkey and Italy, in the mean while, we view the end of this, with the same tranquillity, that we shall consider those, that may occur in the succeeding period.

Versailles, 13th June, 1743.

THE King has passed two pleasant days with the Princess, and it is with pleasure, he daily discovers, that she is entitled to greater confidence. She has not that desire of penetrating into every thing, as

(1) If the original of this letter was not written in the King's own hand, there would be reason to believe a pleasantry was intended in this feigned ignorance; for is it possible, that Lewis the XV. was so lost to pride and a sense of glory, as to allow of three weeks to elapse, and remain in a state of uncertainty of what was passing in Bavaria, the scene of active operations? This war had been commenced to humble the house of Austria, and to cause the succession to the Imperial Throne to devolve to the house of Bavaria. The Elector had been chosen Emperor. It was requisite to support this election, and, in this pursuit, millions of men and money were sacrificed and expended. It appears to us the motives were strong enough to excite his Majesty's curiosity. But this proves the apathy and indifference of the Monarch, to the object of importance of his Kingdom, which was abandoned, in it's welfare and honor, to the Care and Vigilance alone of his Ministers.

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her sisters manifested; and which was felt, as a spirit of curiosity, truly troublesome, in women to harbor.

HIS Majesty has determined on the affair of the umbrellas; and the result of his decision is, that the Princesses of the blood, and Dutcheßes, may assume the use of them in any proceßion.

THERE was a grand council held yesterday, that lasted too long, for the unimportance of it's discussion. I see plainly, that it is the wish of every one to be right, though, in the end, some one must be in the wrong; for it is scarcely possible, that in the result of any event, matters should so have occurred, as to stamp, with propriety, every part of the measure tending to it's execution. It is clear to me, however, that our present situation in Bavaria affords no prospect of advantage. The Cardinal de Tenein, on this subject has committed, to my perusal, a memorial, which, though diffuse, is not void of just remarks.

You are much wished for in the circle of our Ladies. One of them particularly seems so much affected by your absence, that, to support and relieve her grief, she has resolved to draw consolation from admitting of the assiduities of another person. How your excellency will bear this, remains with time to reconcile! for my part I see, no great harm in two persons

persons being obliged instead of one, Dumènil has spoken to me of the Mareschal. I am much satisfied, that a good understanding prevails between him and Monsieur D'Argenson, for you well know, I like, that men, co-operating in the service of my state, should preserve that happy union of cordiality towards each other. The Mareschal is bound in gratitude to the Princess, for she wishes him truly well.

I HAVE been assured, that such are the advantageous dispositions he has made, and the masterly position of his army, he cannot fail of beating the English, when the day of encounter happens. I hope in God it may be verified, and that soon the action, you meditate, may concur to the desirable end hoped for from it, of giving us peace and seeing a termination of all hostilities between the respective states, so long exhausting their subjects, blood, and treasure, on fruitless and unnecessary wars. I am confident in your excellency's using your utmost ability, equally as it has with your zeal been conspicuous on other occasions. I have therefore to offer my prayers, that in the result, you will be as successful, as in those bright examples of fortune, which have established your fame.

THE King goes to-morrow to Choisy, to stay a few days, his personal attendants only have been summoned

summoned. He wishes to enjoy a little privacy, completely retired from the turbulence of a Court. In his conversations with the Princess, your excellency will not be forgotten, and may health and preservation attend you!

Versailles, 4th August, 1743.

I WAS at Versailles, when the Princess delivered, to me, the Letter, your Excellency had entrusted her with; and I doubt not that your remonstrances, to the Prince of Conti, must have been animated. I could wish not to have known it, for this act has exasperated me. I do not feel myself naturally irritable, but, on the contrary, indulgent to the faults of others. Where however, as in this case, they have been manifest, and might have been avoided, I think, my anger, against the individual, not misplaced.

No, certainly, Monsieur de Broglie had no orders to quit his post in Bavaria, and, if by this motion, he has been the Martyr to policy, I can assure you, that political expectation has been fully his victim. But, I must not ruminate on what is past, and is now without remedy. It is incumbent to cure the evil as soon as possible, and that, by

by every vigor, which can be called forth into action. I do not think, dishonor is attached on the conquered, but truly so, in the disgrace of perpetually flying before the enemy, as these two years operations evince.—Our army is in want of discipline, and the Soldiers of encouragement. This is what employs my attention, and I entreat my Generals, to occupy themselves of this alone.

I PRAY of you to do your utmost, that all trifling punctilio's may be sacrificed to the general good. Let Frenchmen concentrate to this point, and we need not yet despair.

May health preserve you !

Versailles, the 11th of July, 1753.

SINCE I am informed that you interest yourself for the Parliament, I think it requisite to communicate my sentiments to you on that body ; and which are founded on what I have seen, learnt, and fully comprehended, of their institution and rights.

THE Parliament, on every occasion, has been averse to the controul of it's Kings, or Regents ; and in what regards my reign, they have selected me, a man, whom they know disposed to tranquillity,

to prefer the most barefaced claims, supporting them by reasons and deductions, equally impudent and imaginary. My patience was manifest last year. You, Monsieur de Richelieu, were an ocular witness of my forbearance. I appeared indifferent, however foreign, to apathy, my feelings and sense of their conduct were.

I do not attribute to the first president, what was said to me. Himself as the organ and voice of that body could do no otherwise, than express it's dictates. But has it been merited? driven to excess, by the impropriety of their conduct, it is with grief, I must have recourse, to make it known to them, who I am. That I am their absolute Sovereign, and holding my power alone from God, to Him alone am I accountable for it's earthly use, whenever it pleases Him to withdraw me and to transfer the sceptre he has conferred on me, to my successor. They will then have another Master, and possibly not so good an one. I am king, and the arbiter of my subjects, or is it the Parliament? No one will concede, and yet it is indispensable, one party should. I wish not to annihilate the Parliament, but it is my full intention to reduce it within those limits, for which purpose

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it was instituted and created. It must therefore submit, or I must give up my rights. Justified as I am, and determined in asserting and transmitting those rights inviolate to the heir of my Throne, I shall use the force, that God has been pleased to entrust into my hands, and if required, in so good a cause, pledge and risk my life in the stake. If they sue for pardon to me, if they obey what is my pleasure to enact, with joy, I shall restore to them that power, with which I had vested them. But after so many deviations from the line prescribed, in the attempts, that I have observed to infringe & curtail my prerogative, I will never allow, to them again, the opportunity of disturbing the peace of my reign. These conditions, which I exact, with justice, must be fully understood and subscribed to by them implicitly, e're I can bring myself to think of their restoration.

THE first president, being their Chief, and whose nomination to this dignity I fixed upon with pleasure, I shall see, with equal satisfaction, the Bearer of the submissions of my parliament, and of the orders, I shall have to give him, to cause being executed. I have hitherto been too condescending. My nature has been imposed upon to ex-

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tort from me acquiescences, which were even then not altogether satisfactory, but now I am more firmly convinced, should, in the first instance, have been determinately rejected. But in this moment, I will hear nothing, until submissiveness is evident, and I have full security of it's permanence.

I SHOULD be equally disgusted with the assumed authority of the Priesthood, if ever they pretended to step out of those mystical lines, to which their power is confined. But I am willing, that to God, should be rendered what appertaineth to God, and to Cæsar what appertaineth to Cæsar. Cæsar therefore holding of God the territorial possessions, that belong to Cæsar, it follows, that it is incumbent on Cæsar to preserve them entire, and as such as he received them, let them devolve pure and unimpaired to posterity.

You may communicate to whoever you choose what I write, as for your own private perusal, I certainly cannot mean it alone. I shall have it thundered in the Pulpits, that my People, sensible of my rights, may see, with indignation, the encroachments of that aspiring Body; and satisfied with the rectitude of their Monarch's conduct, and jealous of the maintenance of a power so delegated,

may sanction, with their disapprobation, the turbulent interference of the parliament.

I HAVE not put my signature to this epistle, because it has been on a very different subject, to what my other familiar Letters to you generally treat. But yourself, knowing my hand-writing, may vouch it is mine, and that the sentiments expressed are genuine.

I SHOULD not hesitate to sign such, as I have conveyed by it, as a public document and in form of a general declaration. Nay, if it was requisite, which God forbid ! I would have no scruple to sign and attest it's purport, with my Blood.

LETTERS OF THE DUTCHESS OF LAURAGAS,
TO MARESCHAL DE RICHELIEU.

Versailles, 5th December, 1755.

YOUR plan, for the ensuing campaign, has been thought enterprising, though rather rash, by proposing the siege of Portmahon for it's commencement. The detail, you have given, has met with amniadversions, and his Majesty himself appeared astounded at the magnitude of the object it embraced. It will be with great reluctance, that he determines upon
hostilities,

hostilities, and such is his aversion to trouble of any kind, that I really believe, were it not for the general inclination, he sees, prevails to vindicate the honor of the Nation, that rather than involve himself in any, though we know the burthen of conducting and directing the operations will not fall greatly on him, he would sooner see the whole of his ships, prizes to the enemy. In the council it was debated to carry the war into the Electorate of Hanover, in order to punish his Britannic Majesty personally, for the mischief, that is likely to arise from his inimical measures, but though various discussions occurred, nothing final was resolved upon. The King heard them with great calmness, and did not say one word which could indicate his sentiments. Nevertheless the war will happen, and you must be employed.

THE Abbé has assured me that you will not be neglected, and further promised to support whatever you recommend. In fact, it is a bold suggestion, and if we succeed, the English, from whom we have already experienced such disasters, will, in their turn, be humiliated. The result depends on the stress of the intelligence you have received concerning the place. Your opponents pronounce it impregnable, and yet I cannot think, you would venture your reputation,

putation, but with certain and just prospects of success. His Majesty is out of humor, and if this decision occurs, they say, he is inclined to entrust the management to the Prince of Conti. Your name however has not been mentioned. The Abbé says he will take the opportunity of doing it at a favorable moment, and that he has discerned the means of obtaining his Majesty to consent to the proposition.

I must inform you, that you are often mistaken in your conjectures. In none more so, than in those regarding Madame de Pompadour. You have told me that she flattered you, and inclined you to suppose she would espouse your views; yet I know, from unquestionable authority, that in your absence, she is far differently disposed. The idea of the siege was talked of at her house, and in the event of it's taking place, who was the proper person to command. Your name was introduced naturally with others, when she exclaimed in an ironical tone, " Monsieur de Richelieu certainly is coxcomb enough to aspire to such a charge; and he will undertake it with as much frivolity, as he would the commencement of any intrigue. His vanity is such, that adversity, of fortune alone can teach him the lesson of his not being so infallable, as he wishes the world to conceive of his talents."

You

You may rely on the truth of this information. I will, when we meet, communicate, in person, to you, from whom I had it. You will thence see how vain are your hopes of support from that quarter, unless you are fixed upon, for the pleasure, your disgrace would afford; I wish, for my part, this may influence them. You will then be in command, and enabled to prove, to them, that, which you promise, you know well how to perform. What surprize would attend them, and how they would be duped for their malignity?

THE essential point, you have to do, is your immediate adoption of the project. After that, it is but just they should occupy their attention on the framer of it. I am really upon thorns and will not quit the Abbé, lest he should decline in his good will towards you. I shall also, through a channel, you are not ignorant of, endeavor to persuade the Marchioness, that if the command of the expedition devolves on you, there is a certainty of it's failure. This will stimulate her malice against you. In short, nothing must be omitted, that can secure you the nomination. I consider your honor deeply committed in this event, and I dream continually of it's practicability.

You

You judge perfectly right in not insinuating your wishes to his Majesty. It would be the means of defeating them, for such an election must emanate from the Council. In the Mareschal de Belleisle, you have another friend, who clandestinely lends his influence to counteract your inclinations, yet this will be of no avail. In despite of their endeavors, you must be appointed, reduce the place, and return covered with glory, that they may burst with rage and disappointment. What a charming perspective. The pleasing dream! Why, my dear friend, is it not realized?

Paris, April 3d, 1756.

I AM as angry, as you are, to see the treatment you have experienced, in not finding, at Toulon, every preparation which you deemed requisite for the operations of the siege. They are bent on your disgrace. It is determined. With what pleasure, however, do I learn, that, by your own personal exertions, you have supplied the deficiency, by requiring, from Antibes and Marseilles, the complement of Artillery, which was wanting. For friendship's sake, take care of that health, I hold in such estimation. What gratitude do I feel towards those,
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who have, with such zeal, seconded your endeavors. If every where you had met with equal readiness, there would be greater cause of satisfaction.

The Marchioness, in her little committee, continues to predict, that a total, and, to her, a pleasing reverse of fortune will be the ultimate and decisive end of the expectation, entertained from such a commander. Every impediment, that you have hitherto met with, has been the effect of the industry of her agents, and you may look for more hereafter. Nevertheless, I am enlivened by your assurances, that you have found in the troops, the chearfullest disposition to co-operate, and that you set off in the fullest persuasion, that fortune will be propitious. Why is not the day arrived, that will crown you with Laurels? Be it your portion to attain them, but, in your career, above all things, reflect it is not at your age, and arrived to such military elevation, that it is incumbent to act the young warrior.

I SHALL watch, with anxiety, the arrival of every express, dispatched by you to bring me letters. That intimation of your intention of embarking on the 7th is considered, as announcing your departure, and the ice is now broken. I feel, how-

ever great your confidence may be, some disquiet, and how should I not, when your honor is involved in the event? Good God! Were you to fail what a triumph they would derive!—No, my friend, I must never experience such humiliation, and his pride is too great to become the fable of the day, and the object of ridicule.

D'ARGENSON is unremitted in his attention to the Marchioness. His favor and utility, as a Minister, are already so established, that I am persuaded, this extra assiduity of his proceeds from the intention of his being the spring to blacken your reputation.—Bellisle holds, at his house, also select committees. He reminds me of a dog, who, having for a long time barked, awaits the favorable moment to bite. You will never be pardoned by him for having slighted his offer of marriage for your daughter, and if an opportunity occurs of doing you an ill office, he will seize it with avidity, I wish to God, those English would be complaisant enough to suffer themselves to be beaten, and then there would be an end to my lamenting anxiety.

THE King maintains his silence in council, To see him, one would really imagine, the war was not his concern, and that he had nothing at stake,

In speaking of you, he says "it is now his affair; if things go wrong with him, the cause must be to him imputed."—Reflect therefore what blame will be your portion, should you have the misfortune not to succeed.

MADAME de Pompadour's influence is transcendant. She hesitates no longer to speak in her own person, "I shall do this—I shall do that," so that you may rely, the conduct and direction of the war will be more her's than his. You cannot therefore place much reliance on a man, who, through his weakness for a woman, and that impatience, which he manifests, in hearing opinions suggested contrary to his own, will immediately sacrifice you; and from herself you know the inveteracy of her malice. She thought you at first an angelic Being, and I cannot conceive how you should not have improved your ground with her, as others have done within our observation. It is well, your fortune and rank placed you in a sphere far different to follow the road to her favor, by such means as we have seen it obtained. But you should have treated her as a pretty woman, at whose shrine you wished to bend, and to such divinities, what sacrifices are not made: You now, in any event,

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would be secure, and where would have been the harm to ensure one's future quiet? I speak to you as a friend. Not one of our sex, with these pretensions, ever forgives the omission from a gallant man.—Good God! Why do I not partake of your perils, without pretending to participate in your glory?

Versailles, 6th July.

I RECEIVED your's of the 21st ultimo, yesterday, and truly sorry am I to observe the obstacles you meet in the progress of your siege.

I LEARN likewise, with regret, that you lay no restraint on the safety of your person: nay, that you expose yourself with all the ardor of a young Mousquetaire, just entered on service, and eager to be distinguished. I had thought, it was not in the province of a General, to be lavish of his person on every occasion of danger; but since you do it, I must have been mistaken in the idea, which I had formed.

WHILST I am writing to you, I am favored with your's of the 25th, which is very far from administering any consolation to my apprehensions. We have no news of Admiral Byng, nor of his Squadron. Would to God! his arrival might be protracted,

protracted, until the event of the siege was decided. Admiral Hawke, they say, carries positive orders to fight Mons. de la Galissoniere ; but I am indifferent to the success of either, so that your's is not impeded by the result of their expected naval combat.

A MONSIEUR Offolnai is dead. It is rumored, that Mesdames de Beauveau solicit this reversion from the King of Poland. It is attended with an income of sixty thousand livres rent. I apprehend the Prince, your Nephew, will not be insensible to it's worth, for you know his fondness for money. The Cardinal of Soubize has constituted Madame de Marfan, his universal legatary. Her health is in a bad state, and according to every appearance, she will not be long in the enjoyment of such good fortune. The Dauphin has been with the King to Arnonville. This is all that has passed here. Adieu ! Remember the estimation I set on your glory, and may you prosper, is the ardent wish of

Your &c. &c.

Paris,

Paris, the 9th, written 3 hours after Midnight.

My happiness exceeds all description. My joy is unbounded, even surpassing the sentiments I entertained, and the fervent hopes I had of your success. You are now crowned with honor. My mind and my head are so agitated, that I can scarcely express myself, and will therefore leave to you to supply what I may be deficient in. I had the pleasure of embracing Monsieur de Fronzac on his arrival. What a letter did he put into my hands! I am in extacy. Gods! what a triumph! May you live long to reap the fruits of his Majesty's and the Nation's gratitude.

Paris, the 25th.

I AM just returned from the keeper of the seals, who is here for the *Te Deum*. He feels indignant in the treatment you experience from D'Argenson, and spoke to me a great deal about his unaccountable conduct. To him alone are you indebted for having intimated, to the King, the necessity of your remaining in command, and however desirous his Majesty was of seeing you, he could not oppose the advice, nor resist the suggestion of D'Argenson. The Keeper, as your friend, manifested, to Madame de Pompadour,

Pompadour, the injustice of such an act, who pretended to be impressed with it's propriety, observing, that it was her opinion, D'Argenson had always been favorably inclined towards Monsieur de Richelieu. All this proceeds from his wish, that Maillebois should arrive before you to give a detail of the operations, as his imagination may dictate, and in every respect it will be calculated to lessen that glory which you so richly deserve. You know as well as any man, that to seize the first moment of success is important to the future interests in view ; for it is too much the way of the world, and the practice of courts, soon to forget services rendered by a subject, however splendid they may be in their nature. It is the keeper of the seal's advice, as well as mine, that you should instantaneously write a seperate letter to the King, and another to D'Argenson, stating that your own private affairs require your presence here for eight days, at the expiration of which, if your return is considered essential, you will be ready to obey their commands ; without in the least noticing, what, you know from private communication, has already occurred on this subject. Send a courier of your own, and let him await the answer. You must delay no longer, for your appearance here will

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be the only means of disconcerting the enemies of your glory, and their insidious projects. I am curious to know the excuse D'Argenson will adopt in his reply to you.

MONSIEUR de Fronzac sets off this night. He takes with him the honors conferred on the Mahonists. No particulars of them have transpired. His Majesty intends, that you should announce them. I trust, the survivance is a part of the contents of the Packet, and I am led to conclude it is, from the King not having spoken a syllable thereof to your son, intending, as I am well persuaded, from his graciousness, that you should be the first to inform him of the dignity in reversion.

I AM well informed, that if a promotion of Marechals takes place, Monsieur de Beauveau will not be included, but will have the blue ribband.— This is all I know. You will communicate, to me, the list of those promoted, amongst which number I flatter myself, Dumenil will not be forgotten, especially as he must give up every hope of having the government of L'école Militaire. I spoke in his favor to Duvernay for this post, who candidly answered, it was promised over again, for a greater term of years, than the natural life of the expectant,

ant: I must not omit to add, that the keeper of the seals has assured me he would support, with zeal, to Madame de Pompadour, the urgency of your request, and would make it his business, that D'Argenson should expedite, without delay, his Majesty's Assent. Adieu! for the present.

I HAVE just discovered, my dear Friend, fresh tidings of their inimical proceedings towards you. That Monster, D'Argenson, has the boldness to declare, that without Monsieur de la Galiffoniere's success, your's was rendered impossible, from the unmasterly measures, you pursued in the reduction of the place, and in every instance you had betrayed a want of talents as General. Conceive the anger, that transported me. I flew to the keeper of the Seals, who retains the same sentiments in your favor, but mentioned, with regret, that His Majesty, had appeared to him, of late, not so dazzled with the brilliancy of your conquest and efforts to effect it, as he was on the moment of receiving the news. For God's sake hasten here, that you may not lose the fruits of such a victory.—You know D'Argenson's venom, and how fluctuating, in what regards you, the Marchioness is, who, at this instant, through the keeper's friendly endeavors, is well disposed to second your pretensions. The number
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is incredible, that aspire to command, and amongst these, you may be certain, her Soubize will not be forgotten. They are jealous of the fame, you have acquired, and it is natural, as you were not of their election. His Majesty has no voice of his own, and on his support, whilst absent, you cannot depend. I trust you know him now fully, and however just your observation may be, that, in his successor, a worse Monarch might arise, yet I vow to God, I would sooner run that risque, than see your glory diminished. Fly to his presence, as soon as possible. The moment is precious, and may be irretrievable. I cannot think so meanly of you, but your appearance must dissipate and expel this crowd of reptiles, jealous of well earned reputation, and constantly buzzing their ill natured animadversions, in the ear of a Monarch, who wants that firmness of mind to silence them, and to do justice to a distinguished subject. Adieu! Destroy this Letter, for fear of consequences.

LETTERS FROM THE MARCHIONESS OF POM-
PADOUR TO MONS. DE RICHELIEU.*Versailles, 10th Nov. 1752.*

I AM a woman of my word, Maréchal, and you may thence be assured, that I will give you a hearty embrace on your return. I felt an extreme satisfaction in the arrival of your Courier. What pleasure would attend the receipt of an express, with similar contents, from Brittany. I communicated your Letter to His Majesty, who observed, such a Letter merited a direct answer from him; if he has been tardy in writing and expediting it, the fault rests with the Ministers, and not in our gracious Master's inclination. Good night, Maréchal. My health is yet impaired. You have greatly contributed to it's restoration, and success, equal to your's in others would soon cause me to emerge from my convalescent state. I shall never regret such accolades, even were I to suffer on such an occasion those of the Bishop of Mirepoix. After this extravagant folly, it is time I should cease, and only tell you, that I am sincerely your friend,

Versailles, 9th January, 1754.

You spoke to me Maréchal, the last time I had the pleasure of seeing you, with a certain degree of acrimony, intimating that I was the cause of those little misunderstandings, which arose between the Monarch and yourself. When the humor of the moment assails the understanding, and blinds the judgment of friends, it is incumbent on those, in whose regard they are, to excuse their common frailties; I therefore assure you that on no occasion, have I been the person to avert his Majesty's good will against you. I am subject like yourself to momentary caprices, but the instant I saw you, they were dispelled. You must well know, that if I did distinguish any one on my entrance in the sphere in which I roll, by a decided preference, it was yourself; and, in consequence, that excepting a few cases, where, your wishes may have been opposed by the trivial incidents of courts, you have nearly succeeded in every point you were desirous of gaining from the sovereign. You likewise are satisfied that his mind is often a prey to inconsistencies, that have an appearance to strangers of disgust, but to those that know him, are only the mark of a resigned apathy, free from any hatred or dislike.

BELIEVE

BELIEVE me his Majesty bestows on you every justice which you merit as your due. He may be permitted certainly to indulge in some remarks on some peculiarities which may strike him, and few are the men who can escape such. He may, likewise, be more conciliatory one day than the other, but the impression is every thing, and this is his own. He has a pleasing sense of what you have done in his service, and the liveliest recollection of the success, that has always crowned your endeavours. But if you go further, and expect an exclusive predilection in your favor, you will be mistaken; for I have not the vanity to think, or hope, he entertains such a self prepossession even in my behalf.

IN regard, to the place you solicited for the person in whose interests you were engaged, I am sorry there was between us a competition. I had previously asked it of D'Argenson, for a man, who long had been recommended to me. I was ignorant of your wishes, and I know you to be too gallant a person not to have sacrificed them, when, you were informed mine stood in your way. I cannot therefore be considered as a rival, desirous of setting your's aside, and eclipsing you in his Majesty's good graces.

I MUST appear very amiable in your eyes, in
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descending to justify myself. I think you will allow; that such condescension merits a letter with the fullest excuses on your part. I should prefer, your coming to make them yourself, for the graces of your person and the eloquence of your language are such, that a woman must be endowed with much firmness, who could resist pardoning you.

IN one of our sex, you have a friend most earnestly interested in what regards your welfare. It really would be dangerous to start as an opponent to you; so many friends are you blessed with, that they would hasten to give their interposition in your favour. Independent of other consideration, I must, for my own quiet, prefer peace, to the slightest appearance of war or disagreement between us.

Your ever sincere,

&c. &c. &c.

Paris, the 4th May, 1754.

You believe me happy Mareschal, and you judge, like others, superficially. I shall lay no stress on my health, which becomes worse and worse daily, nor, of the different contrarieties I experience; but upon the unpleasant sensation alone of that ingratitude, which marks and stamps the characters of those on whom

whom I have conferred essential obligation. I have no cause of this nature to bring against the person of whom we spoke in our last conference. I am persuaded he always regards me as a friend ; but what art must I employ to meet constantly with the same reception, and appear in his eye as he found me. You have often told me, that I possessed every means and talent to guard against his inconstancy, but, however flattered by your gallantry, I, of myself, perceive frequently, that these means desert me. You are sensible how quickly, in a mind void of control and restraint, impressions take root. If once they were unfavorable to me, good God ! what a triumph would they be to my enemies. It is this, I am so anxious to prevent, for as a woman, my self love and pride would feel a mortification which, nothing could alleviate. Adieu ! Mareschal, your last visit made an impression, which time will not easily efface.

LETTER FROM VOLTAIRE, TO MARESCHAL
DE RICHELIEU.

Monrion, 26th May, 1757.

THE late Admiral Byng, previous to his fatal end, desired of me, to convey to you his dying respects, gratitude, and true esteem. With the
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deepest sense of your noble procedure, he expires; in the comfort, that your tribute of praise has rendered to his conduct the justice of. "So generous a Soldier," these are the last words, pronounced by him regarding your liberal conduct in his behalf, and which, he enjoined, the friend charged to see his last will executed, should be communicated for your information. In the moment of my arrival here, I received them with the documents now useless, but justificatory, of that unfortunate person. These are all the particulars that I can give you, my hero, in respect to England, where both the friends and enemies of the late Admiral unite in just applause of your merit.

I SUSPECT, that it was not foreseen in France, the campaign truly à la Turenne, which the King of Prussia's Military abilities, have just achieved. To inspire a belief in the Austrians, that he only wished to entrench himself at Dresden, to save himself from the disgrace of loss of honor; and the consequent determination he had formed of suicide; whilst rapidly, and on a sudden, he penetrates into Bohemia, in four different quarters, disperses the troops, that oppose him, seizes their Magazines, and terminates these exploits by a decisive

cisive victory, without affording the astonished Austrians, an opportunity to breathe, these are acts, of such exertions, My Lord, that yourself, a professional man, must candidly avow, surpass whatever was accomplished, in the most brilliant campaign of Turenne's. It is impossible to divine, where progress, so uncommon will extend. The general opinion concurs, that he will detach twenty thousand men, to co-operate with the Duke of Cumberland's army ; and that he has it in intention likewise, shortly to risk an engagement with the French. Of this latter resolution, I am confident, he has long nursed it, as his wish ; and if an action ensues, the carnage will be great.

AMIDST this scene of difficulty, may you preserve your health and good spirits ! and in those moments deign, my Lord, not to omit, in your remembrance, the good wishes of those peaceable Swiss, everlastingly attached to your fortune and welfare.

I have the Honor, &c.

(Signed) VOLTAIRE.

ERRATA TO THE SECOND VOLUME.

Page 11 for Ruffiaus	Read, Russians
24 for Act	—, Art
— for ensidered	—, considered
25 for adopted	—, adapted
26 for aspired	—, inspired
28 for were	—, where
51 for passed, a knowledge	—, passed, without a knowledge
74 for subject to imprudence	—, subject to the imprudence
85 for Gieri	—, Givri
— for Lautree	—, Lautrec
— for Canpo	—, Campo
88 for fortune	—, fortune
— for everfed	—, versed
89 for intoxicated	—, intoxicated
92 for occomodated	—, accomodated
93 for whom	—, who
98 for and directly hired	—, and, directly hired
99 for nature	—, name
100 for name of King	—, name of the King,
103 for national	—, rational
110 for recal	—, recall
114 for arrex a translate	—, annex a translate
125 for Counfel	—, Council
145 for succssful	—, successful
148 for reconoitring	—, reconnoitring
— for Cicisbò	—, Cicisbéo
152 for pennance	—, Penance
169 for wife	—, wife
203 for those	—, whose
235 for ambitions	—, ambitious
240 for is not debarred	—, is debarred
243 for Tenein	—, Tencin
251 for I am	—, Am I
261 for ish	—, his
275 for devine	—, divine;